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The Editor says ...



EVERY MONTH the airgun scene seems to get livelier — whether it's the arrival of an all-new gun like the Weihrauch HW85, the struggle for survival of top companies like BSA or simply the tremendous growth in interest in air weapons shown by developments such as our own Airgun Fair at the Game Fair.

But perhaps what has impressed me most in recent months has been the new seriousness with which airguns are now treated by many 'outsiders' who might almost have sneered at them just a year or two ago. I believe that the heart of this new 'responsibility' for airguns is the relationship which we now enjoy with the BASC.

As I said a few months ago, airgunning has gained a great deal from the fact that the BASC considers airgun shooting, and especially the exciting 'boom' sport of field target shooting, as being a full part of the fieldsports world. As a result of this there will be a full field target shoot at this year's Game Fair at the end of July, for example — and that will bring the sport in front of literally tens of thousands who have never seen it before.

I believe that the support of the BASC was also crucial to the formation of the Air Weapons Subcommittee of the Gun Trade Association last year — and that has given all of us who use airguns another important avenue through which we can resist any attempts to attack the legitimate enjoyment of our sport by those in authority.

In fact I reckon that airgun shooting as a whole is probably better placed and better regarded than ever before — and I appeal to all *Airgun World* readers to maintain the highest possible standards of behaviour in the use of their air weapons, to ensure that we always have plenty of answers to those persistent 'knocking' campaigns in the press.

Talking about the CLA Game Fair brings me to our next issue — which goes on sale on July 9th. In this we will have all our usual features — including a super competition in which you will have the chance to win the Venom HW77 'sister' rifle to our original *Dream Rifle* — plus a full guide to airguns at the Game Fair.

Central to this will be a stand-by-stand guide to the Airgun Fair which we at *Airgun World* have promoted in collaboration with the CLA, who organise the Game Fair as a whole.

Those of you who have visited our Airgun Fairs at Packington Park this year or last will know roughly what to expect — but the show at the Game Fair will be altogether slicker and better presented.

We have a list of 17 exhibitors that includes most of the top names in the airgun world — and some of them have promised that they will be displaying exciting new products at the Game Fair for the first time. Visitors to the Fair will be able to buy guns and accessories of all kinds, as well as competing in the field target shoot and more conventional paper target events.

So be sure to visit Harewood House some time during July 31st-August 2nd — and don't forget to buy your August copy of *Airgun World*, too. You won't read a full preview of the Game Fair anywhere else!

John Fletcher

AIRGUN WORLD

Volume 9 Issue No. 12

July 1986

Airgun Scene. All the latest airgun news	20
Webley Face The Future. John Fletcher visits Webley & Scott	22
Competition. Win two HW85/Optima scope combinations worth over £350	25
Survive In Style. Win a Wilkinson Sword survival knife	27
Country Gun. Different strokes...! Arthur Shepherd	28
England Shoot-Out. The Commonwealth Games team trials. David Price	30
Gun Test. The ASI Magnum and Webley Air Wolf. Wally Pope	32
Head For Harewood! Christine Walker previews this year's CLA Game Fair	35
Shop Window. Airgun accessories from Air Force and Buck. Jonathan Wilkes	36
Club Call. A visit to Bucks AR & PC. Lesley Shepperdley	38
State Of The Art. The Mastersport Collection in colour	39
Supersonic Sirocco. Ballistic tests with Theoben and Prometheus. John Fletcher	43
Stripped For Action. Webley Pistols. Paul Hanson	44
BSA's New Leader. Testing the VS2000. Jonathan Wilkes	48
Air Your Views. Your letters	50
Any Questions. Your queries answered. John Stevens	52
Collectors Corner. Our vintage air weapons section. Geoffrey Boothroyd	55
Just For Junior! Bob Costin introduces a youngster to airgunning	58
Special Service. Airgun gear from T.R. Robb. Tom Downes	61
Club Finder. Field target club directory	63
Club News. Reports from clubs around the country	64

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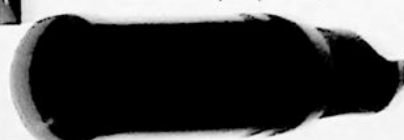
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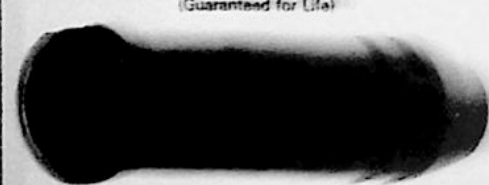
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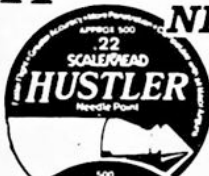


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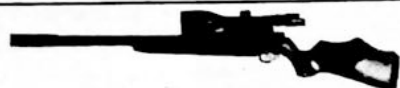
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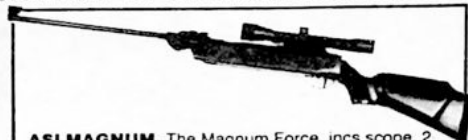
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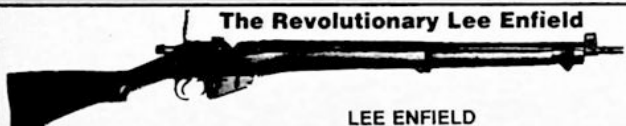
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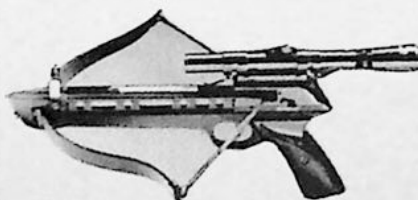
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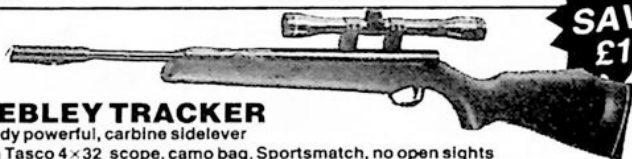
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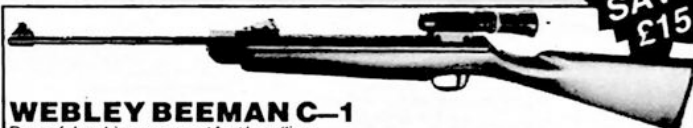
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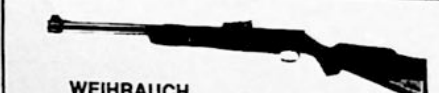
As close as you can to a night-sight without a light intensification or infra-red device. If there is any light around, the massive 56mm lens will capture it. (It's over three times the area of a 32mm lens!) The superb optics with special lens multi-coating will concentrate it and funnel it into your vision, and there's enough light captured to spread up to the full x9 magnification, and still give you a pupil-full of image on maximum dilation on a moonlit night. Nobody other than Optima can bring you anything else approaching this combination of lens size and quality of optical resolution at anything approaching the price.

NEW

Introducing the OPTIMA Compact Gamekeepers Sight
This super design compact sight is now available from Optima. The internal specification includes a total of 9 glass lenses all multi-coated to maximise the light transmission. Variable magnification between 1.5 and 4. Duel-x reticule. Parallax adjustment — can be used on Air Rifles or Fire Arms. Complete ATG built-in mount will fit gun rails 6mm-15mm. Length: 5-8 inches. Wt: 8.2oz

£95

SPORTING AND TARGET RIFLES



WEIHRAUCH

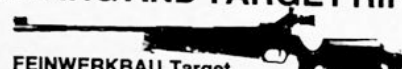
HW35 Sld .177 or .22 + Handbook	£71.45
HW80 .177 or .22 R/H + Handbook	£97.50
HW80 .177 or .22 L/H + Handbook	£115.00
HW35 Exp. .177 or .22 R/H + Handbook + free issue	£104.00
HW35 Exp. .177 or .22 L/H + Handbook + free issue	£119.00
HW77 underlever .177 or .22	£104.00
HW77K carbine version .177 or .22	£104.00
HW45 Airpistol .177 or .22	£95.00

BSA



(Free Gun Sling)

Meteor	£41.00
Super Met	£49.00
Mercury	£66.00
Airsporter	£89.00
Airsporter S	£115.00
Challenger	£82.00
Stutzen	£115.00
VS 2000	£154.00

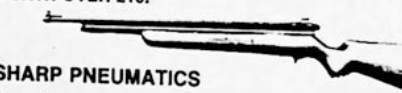


FEINWERKBAU Target

FWB 300S match Rifle — R/H Walnut Stock	£275.00
FWB 300SU Rifle — R/H Walnut Stock	£325.00
FWB 65 Pistol — R/H Walnut Grip	£230.00
FWB 65 Pistol — R/H Anatomical Grip	£237.00
FWB 80 Pistol — R/H Anatomical Grip	£260.00
FWB 90 Electronic Pistol	£290.00
NEW FWB 600	£375.00
L/H versions of any of the above target rifles and pistols.	

FREE OFFER

With any Weihrauch Sporting Rifle you will receive a FREE Handbook (except model HW77). 200 H&N and a sling — WORTH OVER £10.



SHARP PNEUMATICS

Sharp Ace	£125.00
Sharp Innova	£79.95

All guns are guaranteed brand new and fully complete with all standard equipment and factory fresh in manufacturers' boxes.



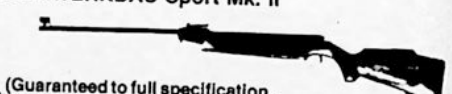
WEBLEY

Webley Vulcan De Luxe plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Tracker plus leather sling	£95.00
Webley Omega plus leather sling	£115.00

SAXBY PALMER

GALAXY AIR RIFLE inc. Pump and 10 metal cartridges	
Plus FREE Cartridge Belt	
Extra cartridges per 10 — PHONE FOR BEST PRICES	
ORION Six Shot recoilless air revolver inc Pump and 6 cartridges	P.O.A.
Extra cartridges per 6	P.O.A.
MODEL 54 — 5 shot recoilless air revolver inc Slim Jim Pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
MODEL 52 — 5 shot recoilless air revolver inc. Slim Jim Pump and 5 cartridges	P.O.A.
LEE ENFIELD No. 4 bolt action rifle with pump and 10 cartridges £230.00. Extra cartridges £17.50 per 5.	

FEINWERKBAU Sport Mk. II



(Guaranteed to full specification. Backed by spares and expert service)	
FWB 124 Sport De Luxe .177 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook	£115.00
FWB 127 Sport De Luxe .22 R/H (metal triggers, etc) + Handbook	£115.00
FWB 124 or 127 Sport de Luxe L/H	add £15.00

AIR ARMS

Mistral .22/.177	£111.00
Mistral AL .22/.177	£125.00
Camargue .22/.177	£165.00
Camargue AL .22/.177	£185.00
Kasmin .22/.177	£210.00

QUALITY SLINGS

Plaited leather gun sling with adjustable buckles	£5.50
Leather grain PVC gun sling with adjustable buckles	£2.50

WHISPER two-piece SILENCERS to fit:

HW35, HW77 & HW80	£19.95
Sharp Ace	£19.95
Sharp Innova	£28.95
Webley (state model)	£19.95
BSA (state model)	£19.95

BARNETT CROSSBOWS

Panzer II Crossbow, 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£86.50 Inc 2 Bolts
6 extra Bolts incl Quiver	£17.50
Wildcat II Crossbows 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£86.50
6 extra Bolts incl Quiver	£17.50
Commando Crossbow 50lb, 75lb, 100lb, 125lb, 150lb	£149.95
5 extra Bolts	£8.90

SPECIAL OFFER

Optima 4x32W Scope and Mounts available to all customers purchasing any of the above crossbows. Special Price only £37.50

Sidewinder Compound Bow	£98.00
Arrows	£3.75 each
Quiver (Bow fitting)	£15.00



OPTIMA LEISURE PRODUCTS Ltd GILNOW MILL · SPA ROAD · BOLTON · LANCs BL1 4LF · Tel: (0204) 386899 Telex: 63114

**QUALITY
FIRST**

OPTIMA

**QUALITY
FIRST**

OPTIMA

All the following air rifles come complete with Optima non creep mounts, GC5 gun cover — plated leather sling.
Please add £10 if Sportsmatch 1 Piece Mount preferred. *SEE OPTIMA PRICE PLEDGE

FOUND-THAT-CLOCK COMBINATIONS — BIG SAVINGS	OPTIMA 4x32W	OPTIMA 4x40W	OPTIMA 3.9x40W	OPTIMA MOONLIGHTER 3.9x45	OPTIMA SUPER MOONLIGHTER 3.9x56	OPTIMA GAMEKEEPER 1.5-4 COMPACT
WEIHRAUCH HW35 Std. 22 or .177	£143.00	£148.00	£156.00	£173.00	£186.00	£186.00
WEIHRAUCH HW35 Export. 22 or .177	£169.00	£173.00	£184.00	£199.00	£219.00	£219.00
WEIHRAUCH HW80. 22 or .177	£169.00	£174.00	£183.00	£201.00	£218.00	£218.00
WEIHRAUCH HW77 Underlever or 77K. 22 or .177	£179.00	£183.00	£193.00	£210.00	£226.00	£226.00
FEINWERKBAU FWB 124/127	£175.00	£180.00	£191.00	£208.00	£221.00	£221.00
SHARP ACE, Pneumatic	£190.00	£194.00	£205.00	£223.00	£240.00	£240.00
SHARP Innova, Pneumatic	£145.00	£149.00	£159.00	£172.00	£189.00	£189.00
WEBLEY Vulcan Deluxe	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Tracker	£160.00	£165.00	£176.00	£192.00	£206.00	£206.00
WEBLEY Omega	£179.00	£184.00	£195.00	£210.00	£225.00	£225.00
GALAXY inc. pump, 10 Metal Cartridges	£230.00	£235.00	£247.00	£262.00	£277.00	£277.00
BSA Meteor	£110.00	£114.00	£124.00	£139.00	£155.00	£155.00
BSA Super Meteor	£118.00	£122.00	£132.00	£147.00	£163.00	£163.00
BSA Mercury	£136.00	£140.00	£148.00	£164.00	£178.00	£178.00
BSA Airsporter (for Airsporter S add £25.00)	£159.00	£168.00	£176.00	£193.00	£208.00	£208.00
BSA Challenger	£154.00	£158.00	£170.00	£186.00	£207.00	£207.00
BSA Stutzen	£187.00	£191.00	£203.00	£219.00	£235.00	£235.00
BSA VS 2000	£225.00	£229.00	£241.00	£256.00	£268.00	£268.00
MISTRAL. 22/.177	£177.00	£181.00	£192.00	£210.00	£227.00	£227.00
MISTRAL AL	£190.00	£194.00	£205.00	£223.00	£240.00	£240.00
CAMARGUE. 22/.177	£230.00	£235.00	£247.00	£262.00	£277.00	£277.00
CAMARGUE AL	£248.00	£253.00	£265.00	£280.00	£295.00	£295.00
KASMIN	£268.00	£273.00	£285.00	£300.00	£315.00	£315.00

OPTIMA NON-CREEP MOUNTS STANDARD

(for use with scopes up to x40mm objective lens).
Supplied in three sizes
Mod 9 — Fits 9mm + gun rails £7.75 pr.
Mod 11 — Fits 11mm + gun rails £7.75 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9R — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails
£8.95



HIGH ELEVATION

For scopes over x40mm objective lens e.g. Moonlighter
Mod 9H — Fits 9mm + gun rails £8.50 pr.
Mod 11H — Fits 11mm + gun rails £8.50 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9HR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails
£9.75.

EXTRA HIGH ELEVATION

(See through type).
For scopes over x45mm objective lens e.g.
Super Moonlighter
Mod 9XH — Fits 9mm + gun rails £8.75 pr.
Mod 11XH — Fits 11mm + gun rails £8.75 pr.
For Weihrauch Rifles there is a special model.
Mod 9XHR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails
£10.50 pr.

JENOLITE KOLD BLAK

Ideal for touching up those rusty areas, can be used cold
— simply brush on. Complete with Jensil Aerosol gun
cleaner £8.99.

PROTECT YOUR RIFLE WITH AN OPTIMA GUN COVER



OPTIMA GC3 £14.95

Matching Sling £2.50
Strong PVC brown leather finish.
Luxurious nylon fleece lined. Full length zip.
Will take rifle fitted with any scope or any shotgun with
storage room for cartridges, cleaning kit etc. Elegant
protection for your treasured gun.
O/A length 51" (130cm). Width 9" (23cm).

OPTIMA GC5 £22.95

(New — GC5X with extra deep cut for scopes over
45mm (£25.75).
Matching Sling £2.50.
This new Optima Rifle Cover is made of strong PVC with
brown leather graining.
Fitted with heavy duty zip giving full-length, speedy
access.

OPTIMA BARREL CLEANING KITS
SUITABLE FOR BOTH CALIBRES
ABSOLUTE BARGAIN AT ONLY £4.50

OPTIMA

**PERSONAL CALLERS WELCOME
NEW SHOWROOM NOW OPEN
Monday-Friday 10-5. Saturday 9-12.**

*** OPTIMA PRICE PLEDGE**
IF YOU CAN BUY A COMPARABLE COMBINATION
AT A CHEAPER PRICE WE WILL REFUND THE
DIFFERENCE.
PART-EXCHANGE WELCOME

CUSTOM STOCKS IN FRENCH WALNUT

Now available from Optima are the following
rifles fitted with custom made stocks. Made
from specially imported French Walnut of
guaranteed quality these stocks offer
advanced designed features usually found on
top quality hunting rifles.
Available with the choice of two of these
superb stocks:
Sporter type. Tyrolean type cheek piece.

		Tuned version
HW80 Custom	£173.00	£203.00
HW77 Custom	£180.00	£207.00
HW77 Carbine Custom	£180.00	£207.00
FWB 124/127 Custom	£185.00	£212.00

**ALL THESE RIFLES MAY BE PURCHASED
IN ANY OF OUR SPECIAL COMBINATIONS.
PLEASE WRITE OR RING FOR DETAILS.**

SPORTSMATCH 1 PIECE MOUNTS

9-11mm GUN RAILS
7416 — LOW £18.00
7420 — HIGH £19.50

£1,000 INSTANT CREDIT
TO PERSONAL CALLERS WITH A CREDIT
OR BANKERS CARD AGED 18 YEARS OR
OVER AND EMPLOYED.

CREDIT TERMS AVAILABLE ON ORDERS £100-£300

Flat 15% + Full Cash Price payable over 10 months (Lic No.
156663 36.8% APR)
e.g. Combo Cash Price..... £200.00
Initial Payment with order..... £30.00
10 monthly payments..... £20.00
TOTAL CREDIT PRICE..... £230.00

Just send 15% with your order (Goods despatched
by return subject to status — or else deposit
refunded).

OPTIMA LAMPING KIT

A new 55w Halogen Searchlight lamping kit with special high-power non-spill
battery, scope mounted or hand held comes complete with red screen, adaptor for
use with standard battery charger, mounts and battery carrying case with shoulder
strap. Special Optima price £54.50.

POSTAGE

Items up to £25 add 75p p.p.
Items up to £50 add £1.25 p.p.
Items over £50 add £2.50 p.p.

Write to all customers: If you are considering buying Mail Order ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the company I intend to buy from one I can trust?
- Has the company had years of experience in Mail Order?
- Does the company offer value for money?
- Are all items advertised in stock most of the time?
- Are you allowed a full refund if not delighted upon receipt?
- Are all items guaranteed?
- Can I get after sales service?

Optima can offer all these and more. We are the leading Mail Order company having years of experience in
dealing with Mail Order purchases. 1000's of satisfied customers.

ORDER NOW WITH CONFIDENCE.

Please send me the following

Name

Age

Tel. No.

Deposit/Total Price

AGW7

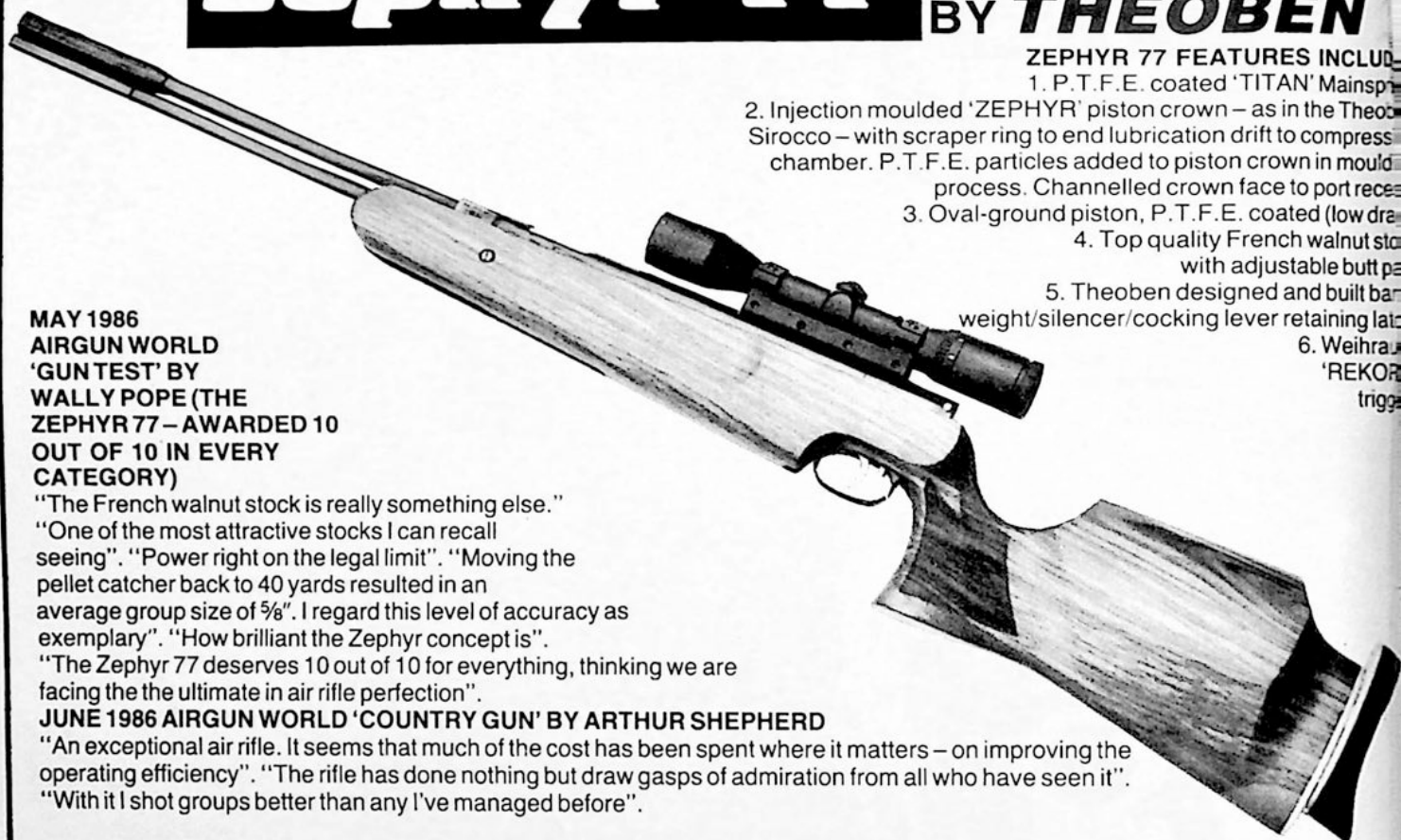


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Zephyr 77

BY THEOBEN



MAY 1986
AIRGUN WORLD
'GUN TEST' BY
WALLY POPE (THE
ZEPHYR 77 - AWARDED 10
OUT OF 10 IN EVERY
CATEGORY)

"The French walnut stock is really something else."

"One of the most attractive stocks I can recall seeing". "Power right on the legal limit". "Moving the pellet catcher back to 40 yards resulted in an average group size of 5/8". I regard this level of accuracy as exemplary". "How brilliant the Zephyr concept is".

"The Zephyr 77 deserves 10 out of 10 for everything, thinking we are facing the the ultimate in air rifle perfection".

JUNE 1986 AIRGUN WORLD 'COUNTRY GUN' BY ARTHUR SHEPHERD

"An exceptional air rifle. It seems that much of the cost has been spent where it matters - on improving the operating efficiency". "The rifle has done nothing but draw gasps of admiration from all who have seen it".

"With it I shot groups better than any I've managed before".

ZEPHYR 77 FEATURES INCLUDE

1. P.T.F.E. coated 'TITAN' Mainsp
2. Injection moulded 'ZEPHYR' piston crown - as in the Theo Sirocco - with scraper ring to end lubrication drift to compress chamber. P.T.F.E. particles added to piston crown in mould process. Channelled crown face to port rece
3. Oval-ground piston, P.T.F.E. coated (low dra
4. Top quality French walnut stock with adjustable butt pa
5. Theoben designed and built bar
6. Weihra
- 'REKOR
- trigg

THE ULTIMATE STATE OF THE ART AIR WEAPON IS AVAILABLE NOW:

ZEPHYR 77 FIELD TARGET with top quality French walnut stock	£325.00
ZEPHYR 77 HUNTER with lightweight Tyrol custom stock	£285.00
WEIHRAUCH HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (incl. silencer)	£192.50
WEIHRAUCH HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer)	£155.00

GREAT NEWS—NOW EXISTING HW77 OWNERS CAN HAVE ZEPHYR PERFORMANCE. SEND OR BRING YOUR HW77 FOR FULL ZEPHYR INTERNAL CONVERSION—£50.00 PLUS £2.50 P&P. FOR LIMITED PERIOD ONLY. WHILE YOU WAIT SERVICE BY APPOINTMENT.

**RING JOHN STEVENS NOW WITH YOUR QUESTIONS ON
0268 771 730**

AIRGUN CENTRE TUNING — Remember we were the first company to offer tuned weapons — our experience is unparalleled. Send your weapon for full Airgun Centre tune. We still only charge £20 and that includes a replacement top quality mainspring. Don't forget to add £2.50 for return postage & packing.

TEST CERTIFICATES — Supplied with all tuned weapons, giving comprehensive performance details.

FREE OVERHAULS — Once we have tuned your weapon, we will overhaul it *FREE OF CHARGE FOR LIFE*.

LIFETIME GUARANTEE — We only stock top quality products in which we have full confidence. Enough to give a *LIFETIME GUARANTEE!*

FULLY AIRGUN CENTRE TUNED RIFLES

	Cash Price	Deposit	12 months at
Zephyr 77 Field Target with top quality French walnut stock	£325.00	£33.00	£28.92
Zephyr 77 Hunter with lightweight Tyrol custom stock	£285.00	£29.00	£25.35
Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (incl. silencer)	£192.50	£19.50	£17.13
Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer)	£155.00	£16.00	£13.76
Weihrauch HW80 Tyrol Custom (80K carbine version same price)	£198.00	£20.00	£17.62
Weihrauch HW77 (and HW77K carbine)	£120.00	£12.00	£10.85
Weihrauch HW80 (and HW80K carbine)	£109.00	£11.00	£9.96
Weihrauch HW35 Export	£115.00	£12.00	£10.41
Weihrauch HW35 (also HW35K carbine)	£85.00	£9.00	£8.01
Theoben Sirocco Deluxe (silencer fitted)	£270.00	£27.00	£24.06
Theoben Sirocco Standard (silencer fitted)	£230.00	£23.00	£20.50
Feinwerkbau Sport Tyrol Custom	£224.00	£23.00	£19.90
Feinwerkbau Sport Mk.II	£135.00	£14.00	£11.98
Original 50 TO1	£125.00	£13.00	£11.21
Original 45	£ 90.00	£9.00	£8.46
Webley Omega (and carbine version)	£125.00	£13.00	£11.21
Webley Vulcan Deluxe (and carbine version)	£105.00	£11.00	£9.61
Webley Vulcan Mk.II (and carbine version)	£85.00	£9.00	£8.01
Webley Beeman C1 carbine	£75.00		
Webley Victor	£65.00		
Webley Air Wolf	£56.00		
BSA Stutzen	£139.00	£14.00	£12.38
BSA Airsporter S (and carbine version)	£129.00	£13.00	£11.56
BSA Mercury Challenger	£99.00	£10.00	£9.17

FULLY AIRGUN CENTRE TUNED PISTOLS

	Cash Price	Deposit	12 months at
Weihrauch HW45	£115.00	£12.00	£10.41
Webley Hurricane	£66.00		
Webley Tempest	£56.00		
BSA Scorpion	£64.00		

FOR UNTUNED WEAPONS DEDUCT £10.00

KASSNAR 'SCOPES'

Adjustable Parallax with External Windage and Elevation Adjustment

3-9×56 wide angle (WAPA)	£129.00
6-18×40 wide angle (WAPA)	£117.00
3-9×40 wide angle (WAPA)	£93.00
2-7×32 wide angle (WAPA)	£87.00
4×40 wide angle (WAPA)	£81.00
4×32 wide angle (WAPA)	£68.00

ZOOM (VARIABLE POWER)

3-9×40 wide angle (WA)	£71.00
2-7×32 wide angle (WA)	£70.00
1.75-5×40	£66.00
1.54-4×20	£42.00

FIXED POWER

8×56	£88.00
6×40	£53.00
4×40 wide angle (WA)	£57.00
2.75×40	£52.00
4×32 wide angle (WA)	£50.00
4×32	£43.00
2.5×32	£46.00
4×32 Vistascope	£31.00
4×20 with mounts	£12.00

SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS

ONE PIECE

OP10 FWB/ORIG/WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£17.25
OP12 BSA	£19.00
OP15 WEIHRACH	£19.00
OP14 SHARP	£19.00

TWO PIECE

TO1 FWB/ORIG/WEBLEY/ANSCHUTZ	£6.05
TO3 as above extra tough fittings	£7.75
TO2 WEIHRACH, with arrester stud	£6.20
TO4 as above, extra tough fittings	£8.45

SILENCERS

AIR LOGIC — State which rifle to fit	£19.95
ZEPHYR — For HW77 Blue steel includes underlever retaining catch. The best on the market	£37.50
Top quality leather slings	£8.45
Quickly detachable sling swivels	£8.95
Standard sling swivels	£5.00
Deluxe vinyl foam-lined (egg-box) case	£22.50
"Weihrauch" fleece-lined case	£21.50
Standard fleece-lined case	£17.50

BUYING ON CREDIT IS EASY . . .

Just add together the cost of all the items you want. Complete the order form below and send it with your 10% deposit + £2.50 p&p and we do the rest. If our order form is not big enough simply write a letter or telephone.

CREDIT EXAMPLE

Weihrauch HW77K with full Zephyr conversion (no silencer) at £155.00 plus Sportsmatch OP10 one piece mount £17.25 plus Kassnar 3-9×40 w.a. £71.00 plus Weihrauch case £21.50—**TOTAL CASH PRICE £264.75.**

Or deposit £26.00 followed by 12 monthly payments of £23.57. Amount of interest £44.84 at APR 38.6% (typical). Licensed Credit Brokers.

ORDER FORM

Mail Order and Credit Facilities

Access and Barclaycard welcome, telephone your order for immediate despatch. If you order by post use this slip and make cheques or postal orders payable to The Airgun Centre. Cash with order in registered envelope please. Add £2.50 post, packing and insurance for rifles and combinations, £1.50 for 'scopes, pistols etc.

If you require credit, (available only on purchases totalling £85 and over) fill in the form and return it with your deposit of 10%.

I do/do not require credit facilities repaid over
12 ☐ 24 ☐ months. I am over 18 years ☐ yes ☐ no ☐

Please send

Cal: Price £..... I enclose the deposit/full cash price of £.....

+ p&p £..... Total amount enclosed £.....

by cheque/PO/cash/or Access/Barclaycard No.

Name

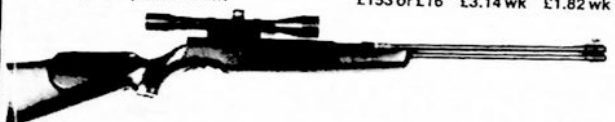
Address

Tel:



WEIHRAUCH HW35 STD
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£143 or £15	£2.94 wk	£1.70 wk
	£153 or £16	£3.14 wk	£1.82 wk



WEIHRAUCH HW77 or 77K
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£179 or £18	£3.68 wk	£2.13 wk
	£189 or £19	£3.88 wk	£2.25 wk

WEIHRAUCH POWER & PRECISION From Germany

All these 'Superb
outfits' are fitted
with either a
**TASCO • ASI •
KASSNAR 4x32 or
Air Arms 4x40 & 1
piece mount
MAXIMUM
POWER**



★ NEW MODEL ★

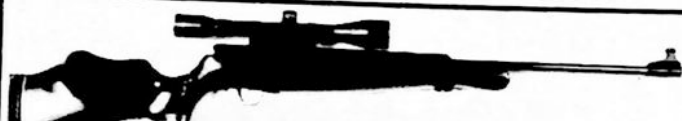
WEIHRAUCH HW85 LIGHTWEIGHT
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£169 or £17	£3.47 wk	£2.01 wk
	£179 or £18	£3.68 wk	£2.13 wk



WEIHRAUCH HW80
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£169 or £17	£3.47 wk	£2.01 wk
	£179 or £18	£3.68 wk	£2.13 wk



AIR ARMS CAMARGUE
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£219 or £22	£4.50 wk	£2.61 wk
	£229 or £23	£4.71 wk	£2.73 wk



AIR ARMS MISTRAL A.L. 40 shot semi-auto
fitted with:
4x32 scope & 1 piece mount
4x40 scope & 1 piece mount

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£185 or £19	£3.80 wk	£2.21 wk
	£195 or £20	£4.01 wk	£2.32 wk



The exciting **NEW MODEL**
from AIR ARMS

KHAMSIN



KHAMSIN model
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1 piece mount • silencer
4x40 scope • 1 piece mount • silencer

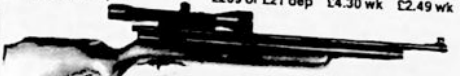
	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£279 or £28	£5.74 wk	£3.33 wk
	£289 or £29	£5.94 wk	£3.45 wk

All these **SUPER COMBINATIONS** are fitted with either a **TASCO • ASI • KASSNAR 4x32** or an **AIR ARMS 4x40** and 1-piece mount ideal for Hunting & Field Target



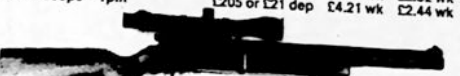
FEINWERKBAU SPORT MKII
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£4.09 wk	£2.49 wk
	£4.30 wk	£2.49 wk



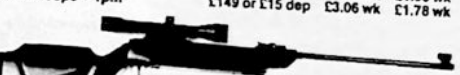
SHARP ACE
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£4.01 wk	£2.44 wk
	£4.21 wk	£2.44 wk



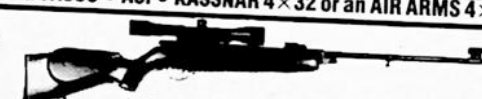
SHARP INNOVA
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£2.86 wk	£1.66 wk
	£3.06 wk	£1.78 wk



ASI MAGNUM
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£2.44 wk	£1.54 wk
	£2.65 wk	£1.54 wk



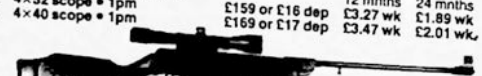
WEBLEY OMEGA or carbine
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£3.68 wk	£2.25 wk
	£3.88 wk	£2.25 wk



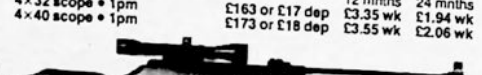
WEBLEY TRACKER
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£3.27 wk	£1.89 wk
	£3.47 wk	£2.01 wk



WEBLEY VULCAN deluxe
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£3.35 wk	£1.94 wk
	£3.55 wk	£2.06 wk



WEBLEY VULCAN
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£2.86 wk	£1.66 wk
	£3.06 wk	£1.78 wk



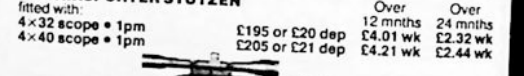
BSA VS 2000
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£4.62 wk	£2.68 wk
	£4.82 wk	£2.68 wk



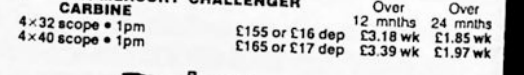
BSA AIRSPORTER STUTZEN
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£4.01 wk	£2.32 wk
	£4.21 wk	£2.44 wk



BSA MERCURY CHALLENGER
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£3.18 wk	£1.85 wk
	£3.39 wk	£1.97 wk

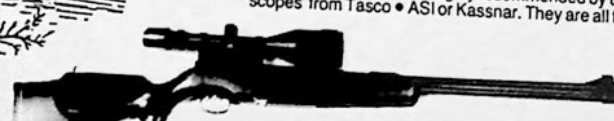


ORIGINAL MOD 45
fitted with:
4x32 scope • 1pm
4x40 scope • 1pm

	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£2.98 wk	£1.73 wk
	£3.18 wk	£1.85 wk

HUNTING OUTFITS

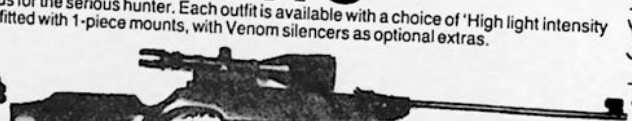
These superb 'HUNTING OUTFITS' are highly recommended by us for the serious hunter. Each outfit is available with a choice of 'High light intensity scopes' from Tasco • ASI or Kassnar. They are all fitted with 1-piece mounts, with Venom silencers as optional extras.



WEIHRAUCH 77 or 77K
fitted with:

- ASIFM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
- Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day & Night • 1pm
- Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
- Venom Silencer

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£235 or £24	£4.83 wk	£2.80 wk
	£249 or £25	£5.12 wk	£2.97 wk
	£259 or £26	£5.32 wk	£3.09 wk
	£ 33 or £ 4		



WEIHRAUCH 80 or 85
fitted with:

- ASIFM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
- Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
- Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
- Venom Silencer

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£229 or £23	£4.71 wk	£2.73 wk
	£245 or £25	£5.04 wk	£2.92 wk
	£255 or £26	£5.24 wk	£3.04 wk
	£ 20 or £ 2		



AIR ARMS KHAMSIN
fitted with:

- ASIFM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
- Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
- Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
- Silencer included

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£335 or £34	£6.89 wk	£4.00 wk
	£349 or £35	£7.18 wk	£4.16 wk
	£359 or £36	£7.38 wk	£4.28 wk



WEBLEY OMEGA
fitted with:

- ASIFM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
- Tasco AG 3-9x50 Day/Night • 1pm
- Kassnar 3-9x56 PA Night Owl • 1pm
- Venom Silencer

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
	£245 or £25	£5.05 wk	£2.92 wk
	£259 or £26	£5.32 wk	£3.09 wk
	£269 or £27	£5.53 wk	£3.21 wk
	£ 20 or £ 2		

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from the
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Germany

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This new range of Customised guns from the Weihrauch factory in Germany feature a Tyrolean style French walnut custom stock with full chequering and oil finish. A superb example of workmanship.

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fitted with:
ASI 4x32 • 1pm
Air Arms 4x40 • 1pm
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Venom Silencer

WEIHRAUCH 80T Custom

fitted with:
ASI 4x32 • 1pm
Air Arms 4x40 • 1pm
ASI FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn • 1pm
Venom Silencer

FOR OTHER COMBINATIONS SEE 'SHOOTERS OPTION' SECTION

Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
£199 or £20	£4.09 wk	£2.37 wk
£256 or £26	£5.26 wk	£3.05 wk
£266 or £27	£5.47 wk	£3.17 wk
£316 or £32	£6.50 wk	£3.77 wk
£ 30 or £ 3		
£189 or £19	£3.88 wk	£2.25 wk
£246 or £25	£5.06 wk	£2.93 wk
£256 or £26	£5.26 wk	£3.05 wk
£309 or £31	£6.35 wk	£3.69 wk
£ 20 or £ 2		

SHOOTERS OPTION: EASY CREDIT TERMS OVER 12 & 24 MONTHS

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CHOICE!!!

Buy any item separately or decide on your own combination. If you wish to buy just an air rifle or telescopic sight we make it easy for you. Any item can be purchased separately or together for a combination of your own choosing. Just enclose the necessary deposits + £3 p&p.

AIR-RIFLES:

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
WEIHRAUCH HW77	£119 or £12	£2.44 wk	£1.42 wk
Weihrach HW77K	£119 or £12	£2.44 wk	£1.42 wk
Weihrach HW80	£112 or £12	£2.30 wk	£1.33 wk
Weihrach HW85	£112 or £12	£2.30 wk	£1.33 wk
Weihrach Export	£119 or £12	£2.44 wk	£1.42 wk
Weihrach HW35	£ 89 or £ 9	£1.83 wk	£1.06 wk
77T Custom	£199 or £20	£4.09 wk	£2.37 wk
80T Custom	£189 or £19	£3.88 wk	£2.25 wk

AIR-ARMS Khamsin	£220 or £22	£4.52 wk	£2.62 wk
Air-Arms Camargue	£159 or £16	£3.27 wk	£1.89 wk
Air-Arms Mistral AL	£128 or £13	£2.63 wk	£1.52 wk
Air-Arms Firepower	£110 or £11	£2.26 wk	£1.31 wk

TASCO SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting, satin finish, fog, shock and waterproof			
AG 3-9x50 Day/Night	£119 or £12	£2.44 wk	£1.42 wk
AG 2-7x32 Wide Angle	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk
AG 1.75x5x40	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk
AG 4x40 Wide Angle	£ 79 or £ 8	£1.62 wk	£ 94 wk
AG 4x32	£ 62 or £ 7	£1.27 wk	£ 74 wk
AG 2.75x40	£ 78 or £ 8	£1.60 wk	£ 93 wk

VENOM SILENCERS:

For Weihrauch 77 or T1K	£ 33 or £ 4
For all other guns	£ 20 or £ 2

WEBLEY Omega

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
Webley Omega Carbine	£125 or £13	£2.57 wk	£1.49 wk
Webley Viscount	£125 or £13	£2.57 wk	£1.49 wk
Webley Viscount Carbine	£110 or £11	£2.26 wk	£1.31 wk
Webley Tracker	£159 or £16	£3.27 wk	£1.89 wk
Webley Vulcan deluxe	£113 or £12	£2.32 wk	£1.35 wk
Webley Vulcan	£115 or £12	£2.36 wk	£1.37 wk
Webley Beeman C1	£ 89 or £ 9	£1.83 wk	£1.06 wk
Webley Victor	£ 82 or £ 9	£1.68 wk	£ 97 wk
Webley Air Wolf	£ 65 or £ 7	£1.33 wk	£ 77 wk
	£ 49 or £ 5	£1.00 wk	£ 58 wk

FEINWERKABU

Sport MKII	£135 or £14	£2.77 wk	£1.61 wk
Feinwerkbau Sport MKIII	£165 or £17	£3.39 wk	£1.97 wk

ASI SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting matt finish, instant rangefinder, waterproof,			
FM 4-12x56 Dusk/Dawn	£119 or £12	£2.44 wk	£1.42 wk
FM 3-9x56 Dusk/Dawn	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk
FM 3-9x45	£ 88 or £ 9	£1.81 wk	£1.05 wk
FM 3-9x40 Wide Angle	£ 79 or £ 8	£1.62 wk	£ 94 wk
FM 3-9x32 Wide Angle	£ 77 or £ 8	£1.58 wk	£ 91 wk
FM 4x40 Wide Angle	£ 59 or £ 6	£1.21 wk	£ 70 wk
FM 4x32 Wide Angle	£ 53 or £ 6	£1.09 wk	£ 63 wk

SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS:

2-Piece	£ 8 or £ 1
1-Piece	£ 20 or £ 2

BSA VS 2000

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
BSA Stutzen	£158 or £16	£3.25 wk	£1.88 wk
BSA Challenger	£139 or £14	£2.86 wk	£1.66 wk
BSA Challenger Carbine	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk
BSA Airsporter S	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk
BSA Airsporter S	£135 or £14	£2.77 wk	£1.61 wk
BSA Mercury S	£108 or £11	£2.22 wk	£1.29 wk
	£ 99 or £10	£2.03 wk	£1.18 wk

SHARP Ace

Sharp Innova	£139 or £14	£2.86 wk	£1.66 wk
	£ 85 or £ 9	£1.74 wk	£1.01 wk

ORIGINAL mod 50

Original mod 45	£129 or £13	£2.65 wk	£1.54 wk
	£ 95 or £10	£1.95 wk	£1.13 wk

ASI Magnum

	£ 69 or £ 7	£1.41 wk	£ 82 wk
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KASSNAR SCOPES:

Parallax adjusting, matt finish, external rangefinder, waterproof			
3-9x56 PA 'Night Owl'	£129 or £13	£2.65 wk	£1.54 wk
6-18x40 PA Wide Angle	£117 or £12	£2.40 wk	£1.39 wk
3-9x40 PA + traj comp	£ 82 or £ 9	£1.68 wk	£ 97 wk
3-9x40 PA Wide Angle	£ 93 or £10	£1.91 wk	£1.11 wk
2-7x32 PA Wide Angle	£ 87 or £ 9	£1.79 wk	£1.03 wk
4x40 PA Wide Angle	£ 81 or £ 9	£1.66 wk	£ 96 wk
4x32 PA Wide Angle	£ 68 or £ 7	£1.39 wk	£1.81 wk

GUNBAGS:

Fleecy Lined (takes scope)	£ 18 or £ 2
Weihrach Gun Bag	£ 26 or £ 3

● BUY SEPARATELY OR DECIDE ON A COMBINATION OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING ●

ORION SIX .177

Extra cartridges
£25/6
Slim Jim
pump £33

Orion Six .177

with 12 cartridges •			
Slim Jim Charger			
Only	£245 or £25 deposit	Over 12 months £5.04 wk	Over 24 months £2.92 wk

LEE/ENFIELD MK IV

Bolt Action repeating air-rifle
• 10 shot mag

LEE/ENFIELD MK IV
LEE/ENFIELD MK IV complete with portable
air charger & 5 cartridges

	Over 12 months	Over 24 months
£175 or £18 dep	£3.60 wk	£2.09 wk
£230 or £23 dep	£4.73 wk	£2.74 wk

ORION Mod 54 & 52 .177

Mod 54"
Mod 52"

ORION 54 or 52 .177 with 5 cartridges • Slim Jim charger only	Over 12 months	Over 24 months
£145 or £15 deposit	£2.98 wk	£1.73 wk

extra cartridges £18/5

BARNETT 'WILDCAT II' OR 'PANZER II'

50 lb • 75 lb • 100 lb • 125 lb • 150 lb (illustrated)



Extra bolts £15-5

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
PANZER II or WILDCAT II Outfit 1: With 12 bolts	£115 or £12	£2.36 wk	£1.37 wk
PANZER II or WILDCAT II Outfit 2: 4x32 scope • mnts • 12 bolts	£159 or £16	£3.27 wk	£1.89 wk
PANZER II or WILDCAT II Outfit 3: 4x32 scope & mounts opt pistol grip • sling • fitted Quiver • goats foot cocking lever 12 bolts • foot claw • cam case	£235 or £24	£4.83 wk	£2.80 wk

BARNETT COMMANDO

100lb, 125lb, 150lb, 175lb, 200lb, 220lb

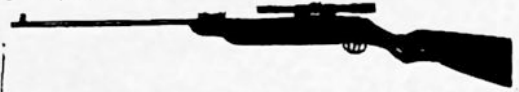


Extra bolts £15-5

	Dep	Over 12 mths	Over 24 mths
COMMANDO Outfit 1 with 12 bolts	£185 or £19	£3.80 wk	£2.21 wk
COMMANDO Outfit 2 4x32 scope & mounts with 12 bolts	£230 or £24	£4.73 wk	£2.74 wk
COMMANDO Outfit 3 4x32 scope & mounts Quiver • sling cam case • 12 bolts	£265 or £27	£5.45 wk	£3.16 wk

2 SUPER OUTFITS:

These 2 super outfits come complete with telescopic sights • targets • pellets & darts



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EASY CREDIT TERMS

over 12 & 24 months

Flat rate 19%

APR 38.6%

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Weihrach 77 outfit
£179 or £18 dep
£15.94/month
Weekly equivalent
£3.68 wk
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We reserve the right to change
finance rates and prices
without notice.

Please send me the following goods:

.....£.....	Deposit £.....
.....£.....	Deposit £.....
.....£.....	Deposit £.....
.....£.....	Deposit £.....
.....£.....	Deposit £.....
.....£.....	Deposit £.....

I enclose the deposit/full price of £..... + £3 p/p (cheque, cash, PO)

or please debit my Credit Card No..... Acces • Visa • A/Express

I wish to take advantage of your credit terms over 12 months ☐ 24 months ☐ (please tick)

NAME.....

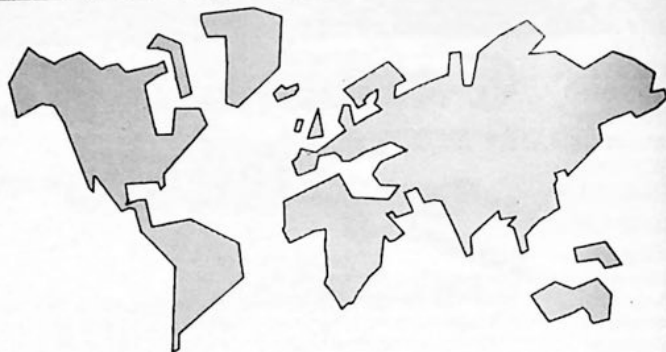
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Pellets



THE WORLD LEADER WITHOUT BEING LEAD

The only air rifle pellet **TESTED, APPROVED** and **RECOMMENDED**
by the Gun Trade Association and by the manufacturers of Knockdown targets

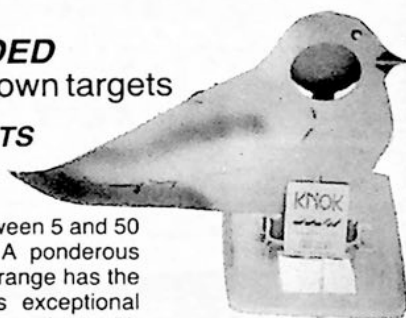
THE MODERN ALTERNATIVE TO LEAD PELLETS



Why a lightweight pellet?

The targets used in field target shooting are placed at distances between 5 and 50 metres and require only a minimal residual energy for a 'kill'. A ponderous heavyweight pellet that may possess better residual energy at long range has the distinct disadvantage of a high, looping trajectory and requires exceptional judgement — particularly at long ranges — to estimate the 'holdover' required, with very little margin for error. Tests have shown that heavy, slow-moving pellets are more prone to drift in crosswinds than the lighter, but much faster Prometheus at all normal field ranges.

No dangerous ricochet, rebounds or fragmentation on steel field targets.



PROMETHEUS

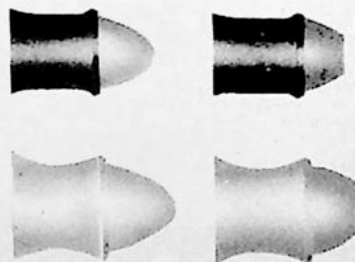
Prometheus are recognised worldwide as the most accurate alternative to outdated toxic lead air rifle pellets. In the field, the penetration and killing power of **Prometheus** are unsurpassed. The lubricated flexible nylon skirt of the pellet gives a perfect seal in all types of barrel and the reduction in friction results in high velocity and flat trajectory making **Prometheus** the perfect modern pellet for hunting or field target.

Prometheus are the only safe pellet to use on arable and grazing land. They leave no highly toxic residue in the target area or on your hands. If you are concerned about the future of the environment and your health use only **Prometheus** lead free pellets and shoot with confidence and safety.



TEN GOOD REASONS FOR USING PROMETHEUS PELLETS

1. Match pellet accuracy.
2. Non-toxic, can be used safely on arable and grazing land.
3. No splashing or rebounding off metal targets even at short range.
4. Flexible skirt fits all makes of barrel.
5. Special lubricant eliminates deposits in good barrels.
6. Perfect air seal produces high velocity and flat trajectory.
7. Manufactured to extremely close tolerances. No variation between batches.
8. Zinc heads do not damage steel field targets.
9. Flat headed target version complements the world famous pointed hunting pellet.
10. No resizing necessary. Every pellet is perfect.



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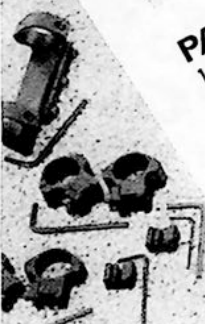
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100 pellets .22 125 pellets .177

The Prometheus is protected by the following patents: UK 2023779, USA 4251079, Canada 1116467, Australia 520831, Norway 147127, India 006118, and by patents pending in all major countries.

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of steel field targets.

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NEW Tasco AG scopes with POSI-TRAC

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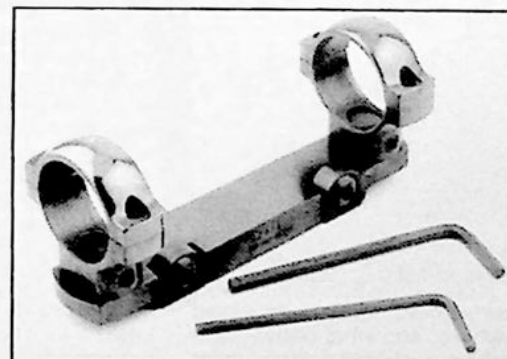
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Tasco world class steel mounts. Hand polished precision manufactured solid steel mounts for the serious shooter tested on full bore rifles. Tasco world class steel mounts give you the edge over other shooters. The hex screws are easily adjustable for windage low, high & medium. 1" rings available to fit all popular makes of air rifle. *And with a life time guarantee, why settle for anything less?*



In four out of its five year history, the British Open Field Championship has been won with a Tasco riflescope. In 1985 the British Masters Open was added.

It's not coincidence. It's not luck.

It's not even surprising when you consider the enormous programme of research and development behind Tasco's success.

The new A.G. models feature a revolutionary Tasco Breakthrough called Posi-Trac.

Specially designed for use by the field target shooter who is required to shoot tight groups at up to a thousand yards with optimum accuracy, Posi-Trac is now available to every enthusiast in the 1986 range of Tasco A.G. Scopes.

Look for them at your dealer now and see just what makes Tasco the envy of our imitators!

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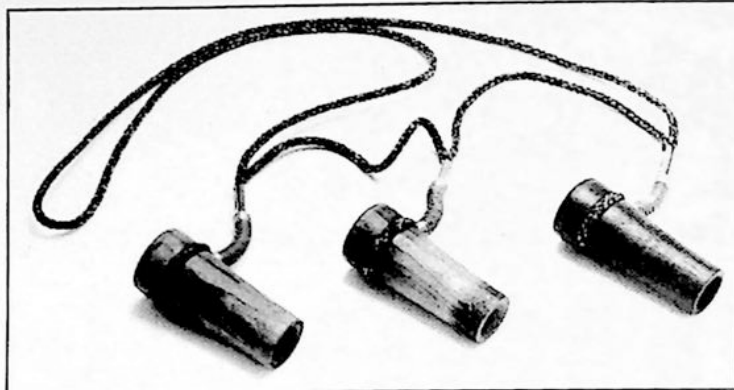
Distributors – Webley & Scott Ltd, Frankley
Industrial Park, Tay Road, Rubery, Rednal,
Birmingham B45 0PA
Tel: 021 453 1864

AIRGUN SCENE

Three-In-One Caller

David Nickerson (Tathwell) Limited have introduced a unique three-in-one predator call system which, they say, 'Has every predator call you'll ever need'. On one handy lanyard there are three calls — long range, medium range and coxer — and it is a system that is neat, accessible and easy to use. It is available from all good gun shops at around £16.50 and also from David Nickerson (Tathwell) Limited, North Ormsby, Louth, Lincolnshire. Tel: 0472 840536.

The new three-in-one predator call system from David Nickerson.



New Mounts From Tasco

Optics kings Tasco have just introduced a top class steel mount. The new mount has been designed to be the most sophisticated and rigid sighting system available at a reasonable price. The new mount features built in windage adjustment so that your rifle can be zeroed in with complete and permanent confidence. The new mount comes complete with an Allen key and is available to fit most popular makes of air rifle. Further details and prices from your local Tasco stockist.

Classic Conversion

Here's the bargain of the month! If you've always dreamed of owning one of the new, sensational Zephyr 77 rifles from The Airgun Centre but can't afford one, don't despair. All Weihrauch HW77 owners can now have their rifles modified to the full Zephyr 77 internal specification for just £50.

This offer is for a limited period only, and all you have to do is forward your HW77 to The Airgun Centre, where they will be only too pleased to convert it. Don't forget to add £2.50 for postage and packaging.

Airguns At The Tackle Box

The good news for airgunners in Cleveland is that The Tackle Box are expanding to include air weapons in their range. They are stocking rifles and pistols from BSA, ASI, Webley and Weihrauch, as well as a range of telescopic sights and pellets. So if you are in the area they may well be worth paying a visit. The Tackle Box is at 46 Station Road, Billingham, Cleveland. Tel: 0642 532034.

Battle Orders New Range

Battle Orders Shogun UK have just produced their new catalogue. It contains the full range of Battle Orders equipment, including pellet firing replica guns, a full knife range and a host of reproduction martial arts equipment. The catalogue costs just 75p and is available by writing to Battle Orders, 71A Eastbourne Road, East Sussex.

Optima Open Up!

Due to popular demand, leading airgun mail order company Optima Leisure have opened a new showroom. You can now visit the top combination specialists for personal service and expert advice on any of their great selection of rifles and accessories.

If it's a top quality rifle you're after, take a look at Optima's great selection from BSA, Webley, Feinwerkbau, Weihrauch, Air Arms, Saxby Palmer and ASI, to name but a few. If it's an accessory, Optima stock a fantastic selection of pellets, binoculars, outdoor clothing, gunslips and, of course, their famous, highly respected range of telescopic sights.

Optima's showroom is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday — and they've already had callers travelling over 150 miles to see them! So why not call in and examine Optima's great range first-hand at Gilnow Mill, Spa Road, Bolton, Lancs. Tel: 0204 386899.

Terrific Trapshot Turnout

Visitors to Packington Park will have seen the superb range of targets being marketed under the Trapshot banner, with their unique design features to help you improve your accuracy. In our May issue, we gave you the chance to win one of five of these great targets absolutely free. From the response we received, it would appear that many of our readers have an accuracy problem! The five lucky winners are: I. McGarry, S. Dickinson, A. Hewitt, J. Brown and S. Raeside.

Ron Fixed It!



All airgunners have to start somewhere, and what better place to start your shooting than under the auspices of one of the country's top club secretaries — Stourvale Woodsmen's Ron Garton. With all the hustle and bustle of Packington Park going on, Ron Garton still managed to find time to help young Stephen Rooke on the field target course. Stephen is an airgun fanatic and under Ron's guidance managed to 'kill' a few of the more difficult targets that many of the top shooters found difficult. Our thanks to Ron and all his helpers at Stourvale Woodsmen for making Stephen's day a memorable one.

Merseyside Airgunners

Since its introduction the Weihrauch HW77 has been a tremendous success — winning our Airgun of the Year poll for the last couple of years — and its biggest fan of all would seem to be Peter Ninnim of Merseyside. Peter is interested in forming a Weihrauch HW77 or 77K owners club, possibly even a field target club. Anyone interested should contact him at 20 Byron Street, Bootle, Merseyside and enclose an SAE for reply.

Hot News From Cindy

The Midlands' leading airgun specialist, Cindy's Shooting Shop, run by the ever popular Cindy Hunt, has just come up with some hot news that should appeal to all field target fanatics and field shooters.

For starters, Cindy has recently launched two new specially designed Vixen scopes which feature coated lenses and a centre circle reticule. The new scopes are available in either 4 x 32 PA or 4 x 40 PA powers and feature all the latest in optical design and performance. You can read a full account of the two new scopes in our August *Shop Window*, where Jonathan Wilkes will be putting them through their paces.

The other piece of news is that Cindy is about to launch a new gun that she describes as having 'plenty of bite!' The rifle is based on a well known, tried and tested make and, according to Cindy, should appeal to all field target and field shooters. More than that, we can't say — but all will be revealed next month. Watch these pages for further details.

Get Down To Ashdown

Top airgun dealers Scalemead Arms have just opened a new shop based at their Forest Row address. Called the Ashdown Gun Room, the shop is packed full of all the latest Scalemead products. Also on display is the new range of Dragon Slayer scopes and a great range of soft air weapons. If you're in the area why not visit the shop and see for yourself the tempting array of airguns and airgun accessories. Ashdown Gun Room is based at 3 Medway Buildings, Lower Road, Forest Row, East Sussex. Tel: 034 282 4433.

Leisure Credit

Top Staffordshire airgun dealers Leisure Arms can now offer customers the advantages of the Leisure Arms credit card. Leisure Arms have also been appointed as one of the new Webley Five Star dealers and can now offer some very special shooting packages from this famous British company. For prices and further details of Leisure Arms special Webley packages give Mike Twigg a ring on 0283 69619.

Khamsin Superstar



Collect this month's special coded star and you're only two stars away from a chance of winning, absolutely free, a superb Air Arms Khamsin rifle complete with one of Air Arms crystal clear scopes.

We've already told you about the many virtues of this latest Air Arms masterpiece and we think that you'll agree that the Khamsin is a rifle that would grace any gun cupboard. But as we're now over halfway through the competition, we think now's a good time to tell all our 'star collectors' just what they have a

Numero Uno!

We know *Airgun World* readers are a fanatical bunch, but even we were surprised at the response we received when *Airgun World* writer Tom Downes offered issue number one of Britain's best selling airgun magazine in our May issue. The lucky winner, and the proud owner of our first ever issue is John McMahon, from Wigan, Lancashire. The correct answers were: 15 million; Italy; Theoben Sirocco and .177.

Field Target Bonanza

Top airgun shop Target Sports is once again staging its very popular field target shoot at the Bolton Abbey Country Fair on July 13th. The main event will be decided over 20 targets with a dump shoot and 'have a go' stand for all members of the family to enjoy. Further details can be obtained from Ian Kirby at Target Sports, 456 Blackburn Road, Astly Bridge, Bolton, Lancs. Tel: 0204 55513.

Skani Move

Skani Electronics — the well known makers of chronoscopes — are expanding their business to new premises at 12 Strelley Avenue, Wakes Meadow, Northampton, NN3 3UH. Tel: 0604 409412.

As pioneers of the wide beam infra-red chronoscope, Skani will use the move to continue and expand their innovative designs with the very latest sophisticated electronic data storage equipment, including a printed circuit board production facility. They will also have more space for testing and calibration.

They will continue with the extremely popular MK4 and MK5 chronoscopes, adding higher stock levels to keep order completion time to the minimum.

To celebrate the move Skani are offering the MK4 at its unbeatable 1982 price of £88 plus £3 for p&p, available for a limited period only.

Optima Winner

Our congratulations go to Colin Jones of Bolton, Lancs, who is the winner of the Optima competition in our May issue. His prize is the BSA Challenger and an Optima 3-9 x 45 Moonlighter scope. The results of the competition are as follows: 1. Lancashire; 2. Five; 3. 45 mm; 4. Night and day; 5. Super Moonlighter; 6. Optima gun cover.

Seeing Red!

Great news for red dot sight fans. A new company called Focal Point has just started to market a range of these special sights, which have proved to be real winners in the field, where speed is of the essence. These lightweight, compact scopes have proved rather elusive during the past few years — but we hope to bring you more details in our August issue.

Field Target At Harewood

Details have started to come out concerning the field target shoot at this year's CLA Game Fair at Harewood House on July 31st-August 2nd. There will be a 10 target open shoot, a 50 metre long range event and a pigeon shoot using artificial decoys. There will also be an instruction stand where novices will be able to try their hand at the still very new sport of field target shooting. With over 100,000 visitors expected at Harewood House over the three days it should be a great success.

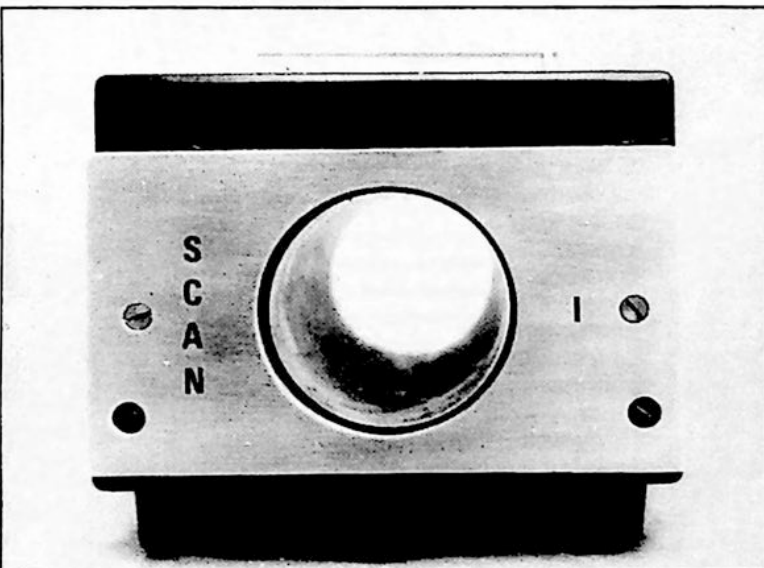
There will be prizes in each class every day, as well as an overall Game Fair Championship, which will go to the shooter who does best in all three classes. Don't miss it — and don't miss our special Game Fair issue next month, with its full preview of airgunning at the Game Fair.

Saxby Palmer Misprint



Our apologies to Saxby Palmer for putting the wrong price for the Model 52 in last month's advertisement. This should have read £144.45 and not £134.95 as stated.

Skani MK4 chronoscopes are now on special offer for a limited period.



Venom Challenge Trophy

Field target shooters should be sure not to miss one of the biggest events of the year on July 6th. That's the date for Venom: Arms' famous Challenge Trophy competition, which is once again being held at Sandford Hall near Wolverhampton. It should be a great day out for all keen field target shooters.

BSA's Future Seems Secure

No definite information was available at the time of going to press, but it seems certain that BSA Guns will remain in business at its current address — and that it will continue to produce its present range of rifles, including the sensational new VS2000 model.

We spoke to Ken White, managing director of BSA before the Receiver was called in during April, and his news was reassuring. 'The company has been here for 125 years, and I'm sure that we will still be around in another 125', he says. 'I can assure people that they can go along to their local shop and order a BSA air rifle with confidence, because there have been a tremendous number of companies and individuals interested in helping the company'.

This must be great news for all British airgun fans — and should help ensure the future of the airgun industry in this country as a whole. We printed Jonathan Wilkes's initial reaction to the new VS2000 last month — and if you want to read his full test of this exciting new rifle turn to pages 48/49 of this issue.

Next month we hope to have definite news of BSA's future plans — and *Airgun World* wishes the company every success in its attempt to get back into business.

On Target In Blackpool

Blackpool may be a famous holiday spot, but it is also the new base for yet another airgun shop by Target Sports' Ian Kirby. As we go to press Ian is awaiting details of the shop's telephone number, but you can be assured that the new shop will be packed full of all the weapons and airgun accessories that have made Ian's other two shops so fascinating for all airgun enthusiasts. In the meantime give Ian a ring on 0204 55513 for further details.

chance of winning.

Apart from winning the very latest in British airgun technology — the Khamsin — the lucky winner will also receive a rifle that is ready to shoot, with no hidden extras. Our prize rifle will be fitted with one of the latest Air Arms scopes which Jonathan Wilkes enthused about so much in last month's *Shop Window*. Air Arms are also supplying the rifle complete with a leather sling and enough pellets to start your own lead factory!

To keep your rifle in tip-top condition, Air Arms will be

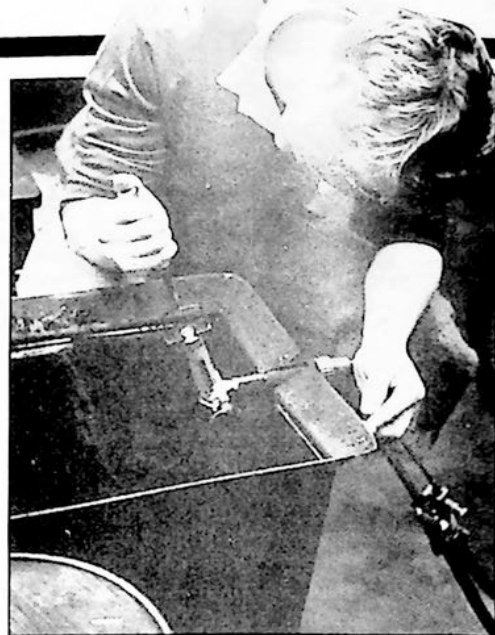
supplying the rifle complete with one of their custom made gun slips which features a full length zip for ease of removal and cleaning. All that's left is something to shoot at, and no doubt the winner will find several packs of our own targets included in the box.

A 'star chance' to win a star rifle by collecting the stars in a star quality magazine! Don't forget to collect the coded star printed on this page. Next month, we'll be printing another coded star for you to collect. Don't forget to order your copy now!

**Airgun
World
Grand Draw
July**



John Knight (left) and Harold Resuggan with the prototype Omega.



Tempering metal parts for a Webley rifle.

Webley face the future

*John Fletcher
reports from
Britain's leading
airgun
manufacturer*



Paul Garrity is responsible for quality control.

BRITISH IS BEST. That is an old fashioned statement — or so many people would say — but top Birmingham airgun manufacturers Webley & Scott are aiming to prove to Britain's airgunners that it is as true today as it ever was, at least where their products are concerned.

In fact, it isn't so long ago that British manufactured products generally were renowned for their engineering excellence. It was only in the 60s and 70s that British goods — whether it be cars, motorbikes, ships or airguns — earned a bad name for poor design, shoddy workmanship and poor quality control.

On the airgun scene the great beneficiaries of the loss of confidence in British products have been the German manufacturers — Weihrauch and, to a lesser extent, Feinwerkbau and Dianawerk. Now Webley are aiming to show that their product is every bit as well made, well designed and carefully engineered as anything produced in Germany — so that British airgunners realise they can buy an Omega, a Vulcan or Tracker without feeling that they have bought the second best.

This new drive from Britain's leading airgun manufacturer comes at a particularly poignant time. With fellow Birmingham rivals BSA in the hands of the Receiver, Webley are now left to fly the flag for Britain supported only by the relative newcomers at Air Arms and the small volume, technically sophisticated outfit at Theoben Engineering.

Sales manager John Knight puts their present position quite simply. 'The Germans have a great reputation for quality — but I believe that we at Webley & Scott are better. For one reason or another many airgunners and airgun dealers don't believe that, and I see my main job now as being to

convince them that they will have no problems with any Webley & Scott product. Quite simply, our rifles and pistols are now superbly reliable', he affirms.

Making an airgun that works efficiently day in and day out requires sophisticated precision engineering — and standards that many people might not appreciate. Launching a new product is also tremendously time consuming and expensive. It would probably cost as much as £250,000 to launch an all-new gun like the Omega, for example — and that's not to mention the sweat, blood and tears of the team involved in design, development and marketing of a new rifle. The whole process takes at least a year — and inevitably involves a lot of heartache and tension.

The first stage in producing any new air weapon is design. You have to decide what airgunners want — and then how you should go about satisfying them. In the case of the Omega, Webley looked at the top sporting rifles offered by Weihrauch and



Tony Hall is responsible for seeing that production runs smoothly.



A rack of Hurricane frames on their way through production.

Feinwerkbau, for example, and decided that they had to build a rifle that not only matched them — but beat them.

They wanted an easy opening break barrel rifle with the option of left and right-handed stocks, a two-stage trigger and a really safe 'safety'. They included a deeper scope dovetail, an all-metal rearsight and a foresight with interchangeable elements as part of the brief. The stock itself is very expensive, with a palm swell, fluted comb and generally much greater than usual attention to detail.

'We wanted the ideal sporting rifle for British conditions', says Webley managing director Harold Resuggan. 'Once we had finalised the general specification we moved to a design draft, where we decided on the bore and stroke dimensions required for the power we wanted and also finalised the type of spring we needed. Then we built the first prototype rifle'.

In the case of the Omega this was handled by Chris Dunn, who has been with Webley for 15 years and who does all his own machining for prototype rifles. The prototype is literally shot to death. The first Omega, for example, had at least 100,000 pellets pumped through it, checking that all aspects of its design work satisfactorily.

Webley actually employ someone whose sole job is to load, fire and test a prototype rifle. He might try 20 shots at first, testing the rifle for consistency, then build up gradually until he eventually feels confident enough to fire 5,000 shots at a time, with the rifle's performance remaining consistent and reliable.

It might be necessary to build more than one prototype and to modify parts of the design during this development stage — because even if the new rifle works superbly, it also has to be possible to manufacture it efficiently and profitably.

Once the design has been finalised and

the project given the go-ahead, there is still a lot of work to do before the new rifle appears in the shops. All the jigs and fixtures have to be designed and the machinery checked. All the various components have to be ordered from outside suppliers and, of course, their quality has to be checked. Under the supervision of production manager Tony Hall, Webley generally try a pre-production run, too, just to ensure that production rifles will be the same as the final specification of the prototype.

It takes at least six months, and an awful lot of money, to get from the 'go-ahead' for any new project to the first rifles appearing in the shops. Webley have more than 30 outside suppliers to co-ordinate, for example, some of them providing tiny — but perhaps crucial — items such as screws and washers.

Webley believe that they are now in the position to beat the Germans at their own game. They believe that their product is better made and better engineered than any other — and they invited me to look around their factory to see what I thought.

Led by Tony Hall and John Knight, Mike Twigg of major retailers Leisure Arms and I took a good, in-depth look at Webley's production methods. We were both more than impressed.

Tony Hall explained how Webley's barrels are now the best available in his opinion and how Webley changed their production methods to achieve this. 'Some time ago we used to buy the barrels as precision drawn tubes with the bore already through the middle, and we then drew the "button" through to make the rifling.

'That system worked well enough — but we were dependent on the quality of tube supplied, so we changed the method to give ourselves more control. Now the barrels have an under-size bore through them, and we ream them twice ourselves before rifling them. It means they are superbly accurate', he says proudly.

Tolerances throughout the factory are amazingly tight — a staggering fifth of a thou on the diameter of a loading tap, for example — and the level of quality control and testing is quite remarkable.

Paul Garrity tests components, sub-assemblies and fully assembled rifles and pistols with ruthless determination to weed out inferior parts. Each airgun is tested to see that it produces consistent power and accuracy before passing to the wrapping and despatching department. You can be sure that any Webley airgun you buy will work perfectly, straight from the box.

Webley are confident that they have got their rifles and pistols right. They believe that they offer British airgunners — and indeed those in the rest of the world, too — tremendous value for money, with weapons that have been carefully designed for the purpose intended.

The final step in getting their products into the hands of more airgunners is to make sure that dealers stock them. That is why Webley have introduced their Five Star Dealer programme. Without going into details, this programme offers airgun dealers various benefits — and the end result is that you, the consumer, should receive better service.

Look out for the Webley Five Star Dealer

sticker on your gunshop window. It means that the dealer should have a full range of Webley rifles and pistols in stock or be able to obtain a special order model within a few days — and he'll also have all those superb Webley accessories such as their silencer and the full range of Tasco scopes.

After visiting Webley and talking to Harold Resuggan, John Knight and the rest of the team, I came away with the feeling that Britain's leading manufacturer is in good hands. The company is proud of its past — but looking confidently towards the future.

'Airguns are not simple products, and the 60 years experience and background knowledge we have here is invaluable', says Harold Resuggan. 'We're confident now that anyone who buys one of our products will not be dissatisfied. Our guns don't give problems — and they don't wear out'.

To underline that confidence Webley have announced that they are increasing the warranty on their whole range to three years. So whatever the price range, their products must be worth a look if you're about to buy a new airgun.

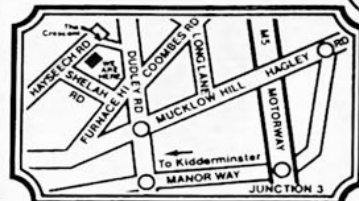
John Knight believes that Webley airguns are the best value available.



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Average Velocity—Magnum (FAC only) 0.177—1050 FPS (Wasp)
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- Featuring extended pistol grip with palm swell for greater comfort and trigger control.
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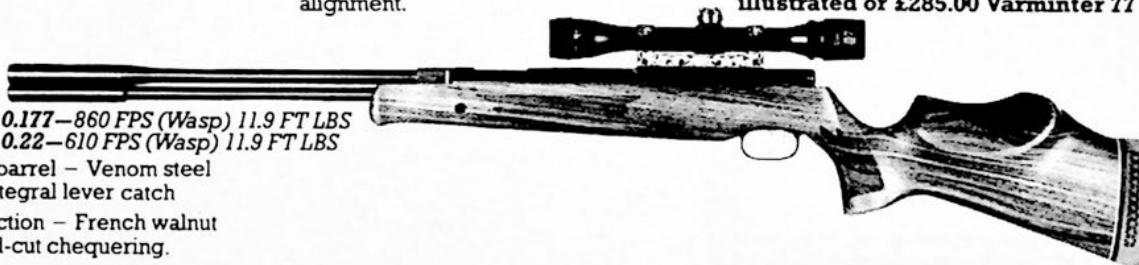
Price—£265.00 Varminter 80 as illustrated or £285.00 Varminter 77

HUNTER 77

Average Velocity 0.177—860 FPS (Wasp) 11.9 FT LBS
Average Velocity 0.22—610 FPS (Wasp) 11.9 FT LBS

- Features 14½" barrel—Venom steel silencer with integral lever catch
- Venom tuned action—French walnut stock with hand-cut chequering.
- Sling Swivels.

Price £265



VANTAGE 80

Average Velocity 0.177—860 FPS (Wasp) 11.9 FT LBS
Average Velocity 0.22—610 FPS (Wasp) 11.9 FT LBS

- Monte Carlo Competition style stock.
- Raised cheek piece—for perfect eye to scope alignment.
- Adjustable butt plate—fully variable to suit any shooting style and position.
- Full pistol grip—with palm swell and thumb rest, allowing precise trigger release.
- Deep tapering forend with forward hand position—essential for standing shots.
- Venom tuned HW77 action completes the combination to make the Vantage the most accurate and versatile system on offer to the serious airgunner.

Price 80 Vantage £265.00 (as illustrated) or 77 Vantage £285.00

* Scopes & Mounts not included * Engraving Extra—POA * Set back triggers—£15 extra. ● New Cocking lever grip (HW77) £7.00

VENOM ACCESSORIES.



Venom 4x32, Duplex Reticule Parallax Correcting, External Turret—£45.00

Venom 6x40, Double Circle Reticule Parallax Correcting, External Turret—£45.00

Venom 3-9x40, Double Circle Reticule Parallax Correcting, External Turret—£55.00

* Venom 1 piece Mount—Manufactured to our design by Sports Match.

Features—● 110mm Clamping to dovetail ● Double Clamping on scope, rings using Allen Cap screws ● Button Head screws on side clamp.—Recoil Stud optional—

* All stocks available separately £105.00



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- Silosheen £3. Stock & Rifle Care.
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Weihrauch

HW85 and an Optima Gamekeeper Scope

WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN! The magazine that is first with all the latest news from the airgun scene now offers you the exclusive chance to win two of the very latest rifles and scopes.

This month's competition is bound to cause a stir with all Weihrauch fans, as we've managed to secure two of the very latest rifles from the Weihrauch stable — the all new Weihrauch HW85. A superb rifle deserves a superb scope — and what better than one of the latest compact Gamekeeper scopes from mail order giants Optima Leisure.

We think you'll agree that this month's competition is one of our best ever — featuring two specially designed products to help you get the most from your sport. Both are sure to be high on any serious shooter's shopping list.

The Weihrauch HW85 is best described as a cross between the highly acclaimed HW50 and the legendary HW80. It is a full power rifle that has been specially designed to incorporate all the best features of its established stablemates. The HW85 has the power of the HW80, but is only slightly heavier than the HW50. The finish, as we've come to expect from all Weihrauch products, is superb.

The HW85 has a sporter stock specially designed for absolute shooter comfort, with a rubber butt pad for rock steady anchorage. The renowned Rekord trigger unit has been retained to give you a rifle that is bound to be a front runner in the popularity stakes with both field and field target shooters.

A smaller, lighter rifle deserves a smaller, lighter scope — and what better than the new compact Gamekeeper sight from Optima. This super compact scope features no less than nine glass lenses, all multi-coated to maximise light transmission and give you crystal clarity. The new scope has a variable magnification between 1.5 and 4, comes complete with a built-in ATG mount to fit 6-15 mm scope rails and costs £95.

A double chance to win two of the very latest products recently to hit the airgun scene. Our double package is worth over £400, but two lucky readers could be the proud owners of one of these sensational shooting kits for just 80p!

WORTH OVER £200 EACH

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do to win one of these superb Weihrauch/Optima combinations is to answer the six questions listed on the entry form.

Once you have found the answers, send your completed entry form together with a cheque or postal order for 80p made payable to *Airgun World* to the address on the form. The closing date for entries is **Friday July 13th** and the correct answers and the winners, names will be published in our **September** issue.

Persons, or relatives of persons, involved in the preparation of this competition or resident outside the U.K. may not enter.

ENTRY FORM

1. The HW85 is a cross between which Weihrauch models?
2. What is the name of the Weihrauch trigger unit?
3. The Weihrauch HW85 is lighter than what?
4. Optima's Gamekeeper scope features no less than what?
5. What size scope rails does the new Gamekeeper scope fit?
6. How much does the Gamekeeper scope cost?

Name

Address

..... Tel. No.

If you are under 17 an adult must sign on your behalf and give his/her name and address

I enclose a cheque/PO to the value of 80p made payable to *Airgun World*. In the event of a tie there will be a draw to decide the winner.

If you don't want to spoil your copy of *Airgun World* by cutting out this entry form, just write your answers clearly on a piece of paper. Send your entry form to **Weihrauch HW85 Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG**. The closing date for entries is **July 13th**.

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KASSNAR

*Parallax
Adjustables*

SCOPE FEATURES

Kassnar Parallax Adjustable Scopes are available in 4 × 28, and also in Wide Angle 4 × 32, 4 × 40, 2-7 × 32, 3-9 × 40 and 6-18 × 40.

Kassnar scopes are precision optical instruments incorporating advanced design. Waterproof, fogproof and shockproof in design in Standard and Wide Angle varieties with fixed or zoom magnification. Matt black finish eliminates reflective glare. All styles of scopes offer duplex reticules. Kassnar scopes are available in most magnifications from 2.5 to 18 ×.

STANDARD

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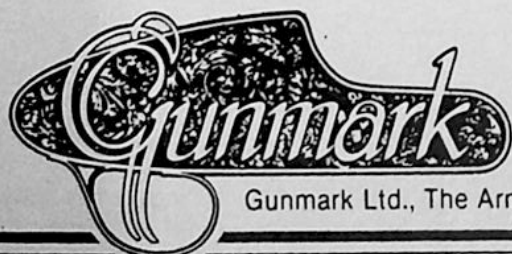
WIDE ANGLE

Just view this scope to appreciate its quality — fixed power or zoom — from 4 × 32 to 3-9 × 40. There's a Kassnar scope to suit your needs.



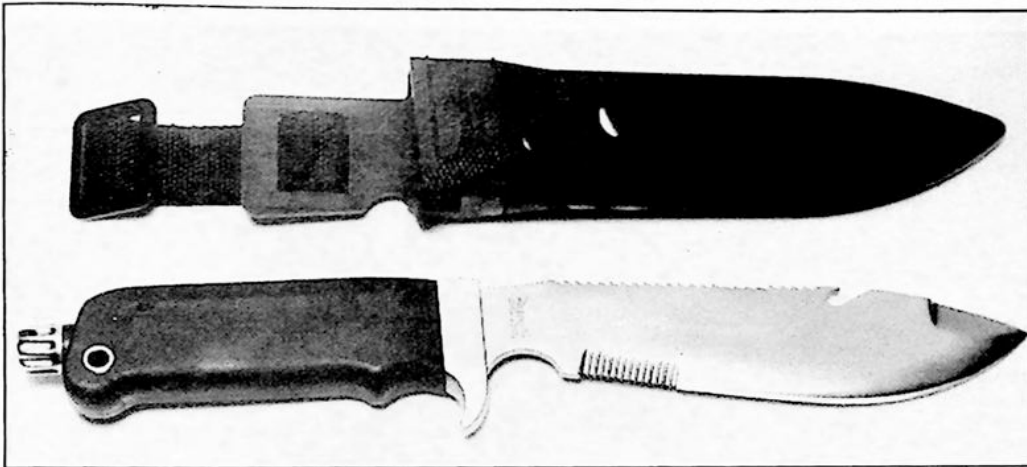
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Gunmark Ltd., The Armoury, Fort Wallington, Fareham, Hants PO16 8TT

FREE COMPETITION



You could win this superb Wilkinson Sword survival knife absolutely free.

SURVIVE IN STYLE!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE to win a superb prize that we sincerely hope you never have a chance to use in earnest? It isn't as complicated as it may seem, as we've joined forces with one of the world's leading cutlers — Wilkinson Sword — to give you two chances to win one of their incredible survival knives, absolutely free!

The survival cult is sweeping the land and so is the tremendous array of survival oriented equipment. As Britain's number one airgun magazine, we pride ourselves on the fact that we always try to give our readers the chance to win only the very best airguns and airgun accessories. Wilkinson Sword quite justifiably claim that their name appears only on the world's finest blades — and we think you'll agree with us that the Wilkinson Sword survival knife is a knife that any serious airgunner will want to own.

Survival knives have proliferated in one guise or another; many with widely divergent claims. The Wilkinson Sword survival knife is the result of over two years research and testing to bring you what Wilkinson Sword claim is 'the ultimate in survival knives' — and just one look will tell you why.

The Wilkinson Sword survival knife is the only knife with a one-piece, forged, full width through tang — but that's not all. Every detail of the survival knife's blade, tang, grip and scabbard has been specifically researched and tested for effectiveness in survival conditions. The special nylon grip and the triple choil design and integral locking nut provide no less than four basic hand holds for the full range of light and heavy work.

The survival kit contains all you need to survive in extreme climatic conditions, with the plastic tube containing lead shot, fishing line, hooks, swivels, a wire trace, tweezers, a metal match and needles. A compass is

Win two superb Wilkinson Sword survival knives — worth £190 each

also included, separated from the metal parts to avoid magnetic interference. The Wilkinson Sword survival knife has many uses, but you don't have to be in a survival situation to appreciate its many virtues.

It's not really a knife, but a multi-purpose tool. You can use it for digging, cutting or for just opening your favourite can of pop! Field shooters should find it ideal for creating hides and removing debris. The knife comes complete with a nylon, impact resistant scabbard with a drain hole and adjustable belt fastening.

We're giving away two of these superb knives worth over £190 each! The winner will receive a survival knife plus the chance

to attend a special two day survival course with John 'Lofty' Wiseman — one of the country's top survival specialists. 'Lofty' runs the School of Survival in Hereford, and after spending 26 years in the SAS he should be able to answer any questions or doubts you have about how to survive! The runner-up will receive a survival knife — but won't have to survive the survival course!

The competition format is very simple. All you have to do is study the six major features of the Wilkinson Sword survival knife and place them in order of merit.

Complete the entry form or write down the order on a plain piece of paper and send it with your name and address to: **Survival Knife Competition, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1BG.** The closing date for entries is **Friday, July 18th**, and the winners' names will be published in our September issue.

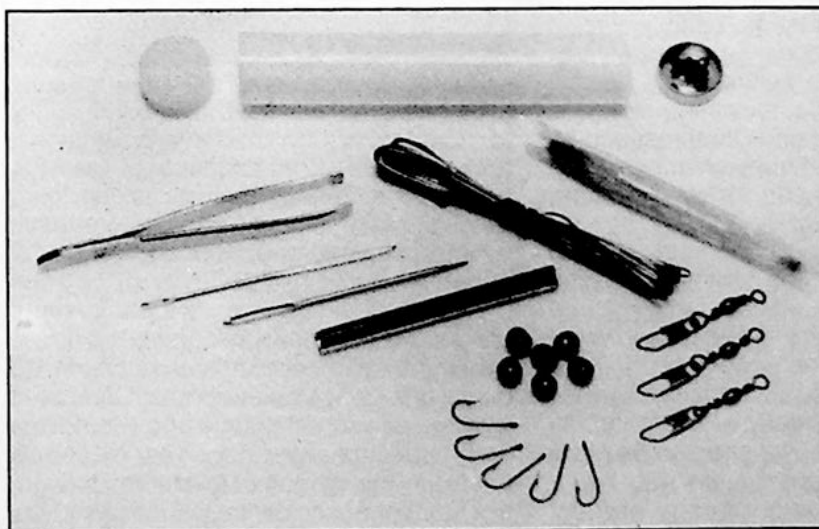
Study the six major features of the Wilkinson Sword Survival knife and place them in order of merit.

ENTRY FORM

- A. Durable finish. ☐
- B. Impact resistant grip. ☐
- C. One-piece full width tang. ☐
- D. Compact tube kit in grip. ☐
- E. Compass. ☐
- F. Jump proof scabbard. ☐

Name _____

Address _____



The Wilkinson Sword survival knife contains all you need to survive.

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HOW MANY badgers, pheasants, owls, blackbirds, thrushes, other small songbirds, foxes, hawks, toads or even deer have you shot recently with your 'powerful' air rifle? None I trust.

So why do I ask? Well, over the past two weeks I have seen all these species, including four badgers, lying dead on the roads near my home, struck down by passing vehicles. And these are only those which are killed outright.

Those which are maimed struggle to the cover of the fields and hedgerows to die unseen, for drivers rarely stop to make sure the victim has been killed cleanly and is not suffering. Even worse, much of this slaughter takes place in the breeding season, when even the keenest shooter would respect his quarry's need for protection, and includes not only protected species but endangered species, too.

In addition to the animal deaths, during the same period at least three people have been killed in local motoring accidents, while the total road deaths in this country for 1985 was 5,209 — 100 per week. Put another way, this is the equivalent of a fully loaded Jumbo jet crashing every month with no survivors.

Now what, you may ask, has all this to do with air rifle shooting? Well, one of the commonest arguments put forward by the anti-field shooting lobby — who conveniently overlook arguments about shooting for food, harvesting nature's surpluses, and the prey/predator relationships in the natural order of things — is the immorality of causing suffering to sentient animals in the pursuit of pleasure. Even if we insist that our aim when hunting is not to cause suffering, but to obtain clean kills wherever possible and to ensure any wounded animal is retrieved and despatched humanely with utmost speed, they will argue that if only one animal is left wounded then the sport is unacceptable and should be banned.

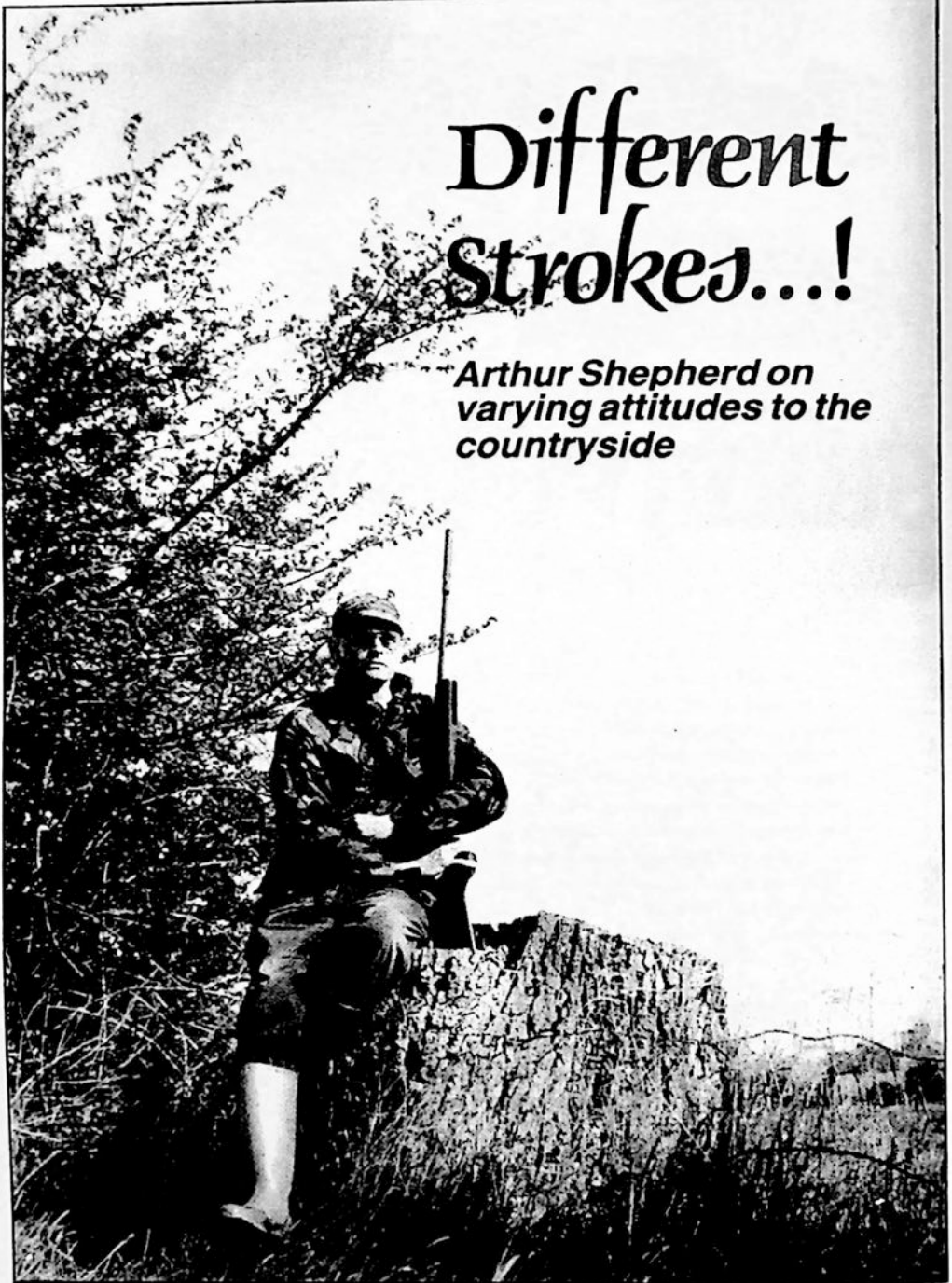
What I would like to know is whether, using the same reasoning, these people — including some politicians — have called for a ban on all pleasure motoring, including the carrying of goods used solely for pleasure? As far as I know they haven't and, like the rest of us, they seem willing to accept the suffering and death caused by motor vehicles as the price animals — and humans — have to pay for our pleasure-seeking lifestyle.

Compared with the suffering inflicted on the world by using the motor car in the pursuit of pleasure, that caused by the use of air rifles in the field is infinitesimal. What really annoys me is the 'holier than thou, we know better than you about these things', attitude adopted by many of the 'antis' — their assumption that we shooters/hunters are inhumane, callous brutes with not a thought or a care for our quarry nor any understanding of the workings of nature and the countryside.

I have lived in the country all my life and have observed animals at close quarters — much closer, I would claim, than many of the 'antis'. It would take a lot to convince me that the taking of life for food, or for the protection of crops or produce, is in any way unacceptable or contrary to the laws of nature — or that to enjoy hunting is

Different Strokes...!

Arthur Shepherd on varying attitudes to the countryside



I have lived in the countryside all my life and have observed animals at close quarters.

immoral. What I do condemn is behaviour that increases the chances of causing avoidable suffering, such as taking long-range shots, making no attempt to retrieve wounded animals or birds or shooting out of season.

But this said, however hard you try there will always be times when the kill is not as clean as you would wish and these occasions I class as accidents. Compared with the accidental killings and woundings on the road throughout the year by people intent on the pursuit of pleasure, though, the number of accidental woundings in the field is very low.

It seems to me, therefore, that in the non-fieldsports world, if enough people are enjoying themselves then anything is acceptable — including loss of human life. If ever there was a case of a very large kettle calling a very small pot black, the castigation of field shooters for accidental woundings by car-driving 'antis' must be the ultimate example. And to use it as a

reason for banning field shooting is ludicrous in the extreme.

To move to more cheerful topics, one weekend recently I took a long walk around the farm. Although I carried my Sirocco with me I didn't really expect to do much shooting, for as I grow older I seem to lose more and more enthusiasm for shooting in late spring and early summer.

After all, spring is the season of rebirth, of new life, a season in which violent death seems somehow out of place. Now I know many people will disagree, especially keepers who regard spring as one of the best times of the year for vermin control, but in my case there is no pressure to show a large number of pheasants for paying guns and the local hunt controls the fox population.

I am also reluctant to shoot animals and birds which have survived the hard, bitter months of winter and are now breeding, even if they are regarded as vermin. It seems somewhat unfair that their reward



Although I had the pigeon in my sights, I never pulled the trigger.

for struggling through the days of deprivation should be a .22 pellet in the head. On the other hand there are a few too many rabbits about, and the woodpigeon feeding on the clover in the late afternoon sun could possibly be fooled by half a dozen well placed decoys . . .

But by and large, the gun was rather more of an excuse to be out on a warm, spring afternoon than for use with murderous intent. Even Sam my spaniel seemed content to walk at heel rather than search the hedgerow bottoms for a squatting rabbit.

I began my walk on the headland of a winter barley field, keeping close to the hedge hoping for a shot at a magpie, which I suspected was nesting in an old thorn tree. Both he and his mate were there all right, but as I lacked the dedication to the hunt needed for these crafty hedgerow predators, they spotted me well before I came anywhere near within gun shot and moved away across the field with scolding chatter.

Even further away in a tall ash tree which marks the corner of the field, a single carrion crow kept solitary watch. With so little cover, though, there was no chance of approaching unseen anywhere near his vantage point. Away across the open field the peewits wheeled and dived in joyful aerobatics, the larks sang both in the air and on the fence posts and a cock yellowhammer, golden bright in the sunlight, repeated his 'little bit of bread and no cheese please' refrain over and over again from his breezy perch on top of a bramble bush.

At the end of the field, close to the stream which marks the boundary, is a gap in the

hedge where an elm once grew before the disease removed it and the rest of its kind from most of southern England. Here the decaying stump provides a sheltered seat which I often use when watching the surrounding countryside through the binoculars, and it was from here that I watched a mallard duck lead a brood of seven newly hatched ducklings across the field and down to the stream.

Fluffy black and yellow in line astern they scuttled after mother, sometimes falling and rolling over on the rutted headland until they tumbled down the steep bank to the water. How many, I wondered, would survive to come fighting in on whistling wings to the flash floods in the grey cold of late evening on a December day. Even as I watched, the carrion crow moved from his perch in the ash and settled — black and threatening — in a willow close to the river. It was still well out of range of my air rifle, and mother duck hustled her brood to the cover of a thick reed bed.

Much later towards the end of the afternoon, I sat well concealed in the edge of a small coppice close to where I had seen the woodpigeon feeding on the clover. Here, too, the original wood had been devastated by Dutch elm disease but now the young trees planted to replace the lost elms are well established and provide just the right density of cover for many of our woodland birds. Also, a small stream which feeds the one chosen by the duck runs gently between them.

In winter the soft ground often holds woodcock but now the wood is alive with the sound of birdsong. Migrant chiff-chaffs and willow warblers compete with resident blackbirds, chaffinches and robins, while

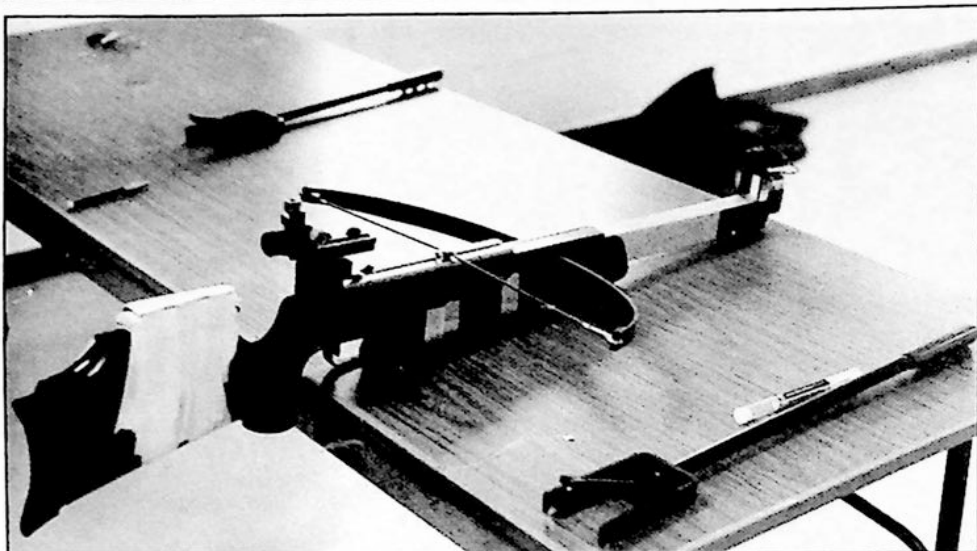
green woodpeckers drum on the rotting carcasses of the old trees and jays greet intruders with raucous chatter.

We sat quiet for a long time, the dog and I, watching and waiting, pleasantly warm in the afternoon sun. The birds sang, a large, heavy bumble-bee visited the purple flowers of a dead nettle, and two or three butterflies put in an appearance. Some were bright, sulphurous yellow and others like the tortoiseshells which hibernate behind the curtains in the house — or are those red admirals? One of these days I must buy a good book on butterfly identification!

Then several woodpigeon settled out of range on the clover and began to feed, no doubt topping up before going to roost. Eventually one of their number flew up onto the top rail of a five-barred gate not more than 20 yards from where I sat hidden in the trees and began to preen himself.

Very gently I eased the Sirocco to my shoulder until I could see the individual pearly grey feathers of the back, the flushed pink of the breast, the white neck ring feathers and the yellow eye with its bright black pupil through the scope. The crosshairs of the scope centred on the brightness of the eye, the gun held steady, the finger on the trigger. But today there was no urge to pull the trigger, no rush of adrenalin, no excitement of the hunt, no hunger, no need to kill.

I lowered the gun. The dog, who had been watching with raised head, also lowered his muzzle to rest it once again on his forepaws and for a long time we sat still, watching. Finally the sun disappeared and the chill of the evening signalled it was time to go home.



A match crossbow such as this would cost about £600 new!

England shoot-out

OVER THE bank holiday weekend of May 3rd, 4th and 5th, the English Smallbore Shooting Union held its English Championships for air rifle, match crossbow, English match and three-position shooting at Aldersley Rifle Range, Wolverhampton. Apart from finding the English champion in each discipline, the shoot was held to select the English team members in the rifle disciplines for the Commonwealth Games, to be held in Scotland later this year.

To qualify for a place in the English team the selection process ran concurrently with the Championship. You had to be a member of the ESSU for at least two years and, of course, to be English.

The Air Rifle Championship, Match Crossbow Championship and the eliminator rounds for the English Match were held on Saturday, May 3rd. English match is shot at 50 metres prone over a 60 shot course in three consecutive details of 20 shots. After this the targets are changed.

The Air Rifle Championship was shot indoors at Valley Park School, close to the Aldersley Range. When I arrived a detail was already in progress, so I decided to stop in a room adjacent to the range to find out shooters' views on equipment and shooting in general.

After about ten minutes Barry Dagger arrived to prepare for his detail, which was about 1½ hours away. I noticed at weapons control that Barry was now using a Feinwerkbau 600 as opposed to the Anschutz LG380 he used in the 1984 Olympic Games to win his bronze medal. The obvious questions were why had he changed to the Feinwerkbau and what did he think of it!

'I think it is a fantastic rifle, really marvelous', Barry said. 'I like to try every rifle I can, but that does not mean I think one German match air rifle is any better than another. They are all good — it is down to personal choice and what suits you.'

David Price reports from the Commonwealth Games trials



Sarah Cooper finished third in the Air Rifle Championship.

'Take Malcolm Cooper, for instance. I can't make Walther air rifles perform for me the way he can, as they just don't suit me', he continued. 'Mind you, Anschutz have developed a new pneumatic air rifle which is supposed to be very similar to the Feinwerkbau 600, so that will be worth looking at'.

After our chat Barry pulled his kneeling roll out of his bag, went over to a table in the corner of the room and lay down with his kneeling roll under his head. He then pulled his woolly hat over his eyes and went to

sleep until his detail started. No match nerves there!

I then chatted to British International shooter Rob Smith, who I have known for a long time. Rob is an outspoken character who will answer questions in great detail, with little prompting and gives the impression he is very emotional about his shooting. He is an extremely nice man, as many top shooters are, and someone with whom I have always got on well.

So it was no surprise to me, when I asked him what he thought of his Feinwerkbau 600 which he has had for well over a year, that I had a 10 minute answer from him — but what an answer.

'Sometimes when I cock my Feinwerkbau 600 it won't go off when I pull the trigger, and other times the second pressure goes and comes back just as quick', Rob said. 'The trigger is really inconsistent and I have to shoot mine with a lot of creep on the second stage as it is the only way I can get it to perform', he continued.

I think he was a little upset but still he went on. 'The rifle is brilliant in some respects, but I think the manufacturing tolerance are not quite right. I know why it happens, but I cannot get anything done about it. I am going to Munich next month, though, so while I am in Germany I will go to the Feinwerkbau factory and tell them about the trouble. I know of three or four other 600s with a similar complaint, so it is not a one-off', he added.

I had to agree with him because I have been having trouble with the second pressure on my own rifle over the last two or three months. Mine is not as bad as his, though.

I would like to hear from any reader with a similar fault on these rifles. Contact me through *Airgun World* and I will keep you posted.

A little later most of the next detail arrived and began to get ready. It so happened that this was the detail to watch because the 'winners' were likely to come from this one, as it also included Malcolm and Sarah Cooper.

The match lasted 2¼ hours — as many sighters as required with 60 shots to count on five-bull NSRA targets. Malcolm was using a Walther and H & N pellets straight from the tin, while his wife Sarah was using a Walther and RWS selected pellets. Barry Dagger was using his Feinwerkbau 600 with RWS selected pellets, while Rob Smith, again with a Feinwerkbau 600, used RWS straight from the tin. All the shooters on this detail wore shooting trousers and shooting boots.

Malcolm got off to a good start with a 98 followed by a 97, while Rob had a mediocre start with 95 and then improved with a 98. Sarah, on the other hand, struggled to start with a 93, improved with a 96 on her third string and then shot 100. But so did Malcolm, while Rob dropped five more for 95. Then Sarah dropped seven for 93 and looked to be under pressure, while Malcolm put in a 96. But Rob came back with a 99 and the fight was still on.

After the fourth string Rob had 387, Malcolm 391 and Sarah 382. Could she still pull it back? Malcolm continued with a 99 and 98 to finish with a total of 588 ex 600, while Rob slipped with a 95 before finishing with a 98 for 580. Sarah shot a 95 and finished with 100, but it wasn't quite enough to beat

Rob. Barry Dagger never really got going and finished with 574.

And so that is how the match turned out, with Malcolm Cooper and Rob Smith in the England Air Rifle Team.

My next stop was the crossbow range back at Aldersley Stadium. Although very strong in Europe, this is a relatively new sport to Britain. The string is about the only thing this discipline has in common with archery and it is governed by the rifle organisations.

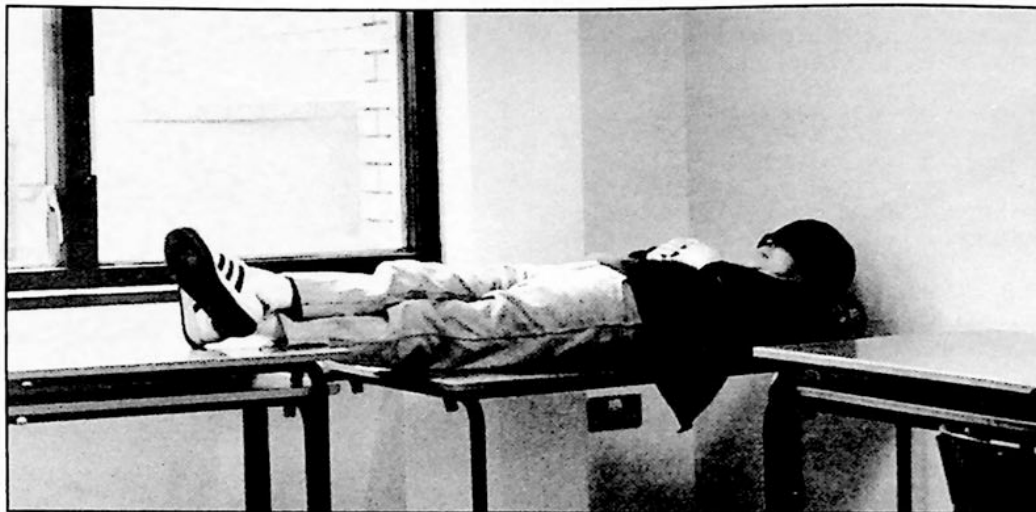
Without going into great detail I shall give a brief description of the sport — and if you're interested you might like to know that a match crossbow costs about £600 new!

The event was the 10-metre Match Crossbow British Championship, run concurrently with the ESSU Championships. Single diagram air rifle targets are used, which are changed after each shot. The head of the bolt is 4.5 mm in diameter (.177 ins) and punches a hole in the target the same as a .177 wadcutter would.

The target backstop is a thick lead disc into which the bolt sticks. The head of the bolt has a thread cut into it and is 'unscrewed' out of the backstop.

The crossbow sights are the same as match air rifle sights and the bows are as accurate as a match air rifle. The stock is similar to an Anschütz 250 rifle stock or a Feinwerkbau 300, and the stance etc is the same as for air rifle shooting, but needs to be very good indeed to achieve only a mediocre score.

Malcolm Cooper won both the English



No nerves for Barry Dagger as he takes a nap before shooting.

and British Championships with 377 ex 400, while Anthony Spittle was second in the British Championship after he dropped a six on his penultimate shot — easily done! Third was Irene Daw with 365.

The highlight of the day, however, was fourth placed, 15-year-old Lee Miles from Birmingham, who is the new British Junior Champion. Lee is a bell target shooter and with his score of 364 I suspect he has won himself a place in the Great Britain team for the European Championships in Switzerland in July. Lee's father should also be pleased as he is also a bell target shooter 'of some note' in the Birmingham area. Well done Lee!

RESULTS. Air Rifle: 1. M.D. Cooper, 588 ex 600*; 2. R.W. Smith, 580*; 3. Mrs S.J. Cooper, 577. **English 10-metre Crossbow Championship:** 1. M.D. Cooper, 377 ex 400; 2. Mrs I.V. Daw, 365; 3. T. Langridge, 362. **British 10-metre Crossbow Championship:** 1. M.D. Cooper, 377 ex 400; 2. A. Spittle, 370; 3. Mrs I.V. Daw, 365. **English Match:** 1. D. Stanforth, 575 ex 600*; 2. Mrs S.J. Cooper, 570*; 3. M.D. Cooper, 570. **Three-position:** 1. M.D. Cooper, 1169 ex 1200*; 2. Mrs S.J. Cooper, 1148*; 3. B. Dagger, 1144.

*In team for Commonwealth Games.

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The Webley Air Wolf — an ideal first rifle at a reasonable price.

IT IS SOME TIME now since we carried out tests of any sort on air rifles at the lower end of the price range, so we welcome this opportunity to put not one but two weapons through their paces in this issue. They are the Webley Air Wolf and the ASI Magnum. Both have been on the market for some considerable time and are popular, fast movers in their own particular domains.

WEBLEY AIR WOLF

Webley & Scott have the Air Wolf made in West Germany on their behalf by Mayer & Grammelspacher, a company of the highest repute. Priced at £53.70 and weighing only 5 lbs 15 oz with standard open sights it is obviously pitched at the younger user. This end of the market is often sadly neglected by quality manufacturers in my opinion.

It is available in .177 and .22 calibres — and to enable readers to draw some form of comparison, even though the two rifles are in slightly different brackets, we looked at the Air Wolf in .22 calibre.

The overall length is 41½ ins. It is a barrel cocker which requires very little effort to use and load. The barrel length is 17¼ ins.

The beech stock is nicely stained and lacquered and has no chequering at all. A pistol grip finishes off the stock shape quite nicely and it is very comfortable to hold.

Most Air Wolves that we have handled have a nice grain showing through, which makes a pleasant change from some makes which are so ordinary as to appear as if made of plastic rather than wood. Another attractive feature is its slender form which, when added to its light weight and ease of operation, puts it firmly among the front runners for informal target and plinking purposes. As there is no cheekpiece to the stock, there is no need for a left-handed version to be produced, the Air Wolf being completely ambidextrous.

The blueing on all metal parts is good, uniform and of such a standard as will give many years excellent service.

The trigger is not adjustable but felt quite positive in its let-off and is factory set to a safe pressure. It is a little on the heavy side, but this is necessary to provide the compromise between safety and adequate release for the less experienced shooter. The trigger guard is quite nicely shaped, albeit only a plain pressing, and blued in keeping with the rest of the metalwork.

The Air Wolf rearsight is click adjustable for windage and elevation and is of good quality. In fact it is the same sight as fitted to the more expensive rifles from the Webley



Above: The Air Wolf is a good all-round performer.

BARGAIN BUYS

by Wally Pope

factory. Though made from a synthetic material we know from experience that they are robust and well able to endure a certain degree of rough treatment.

The foresight, though practical, is not of such a high standard. It is a hooded post type, the pointed post being formed as a cut-out from the bottom of the main hood pressing. It is quite accurate, as was subsequently proved, but not as attractive as some. The unit is held onto its dovetail by a single clamping screw, and the entire assembly is made in metal.

The Air Wolf has a safety catch which is set automatically every time you cock the barrel. The operating lever is a vertical metal trigger, plastic coated, behind the rear of the receiver. Being centrally located, it falls naturally to the thumb for both left and right-handed shooters.

A good feature of the Air Wolf is that should you not wish to fire the rifle after cocking, then by pushing the safety off into its forward position, placing pressure on the barrel and releasing the trigger, you can slowly release the spring. I like this feature on air weapons whenever it can be regarded as a safe operation as quite often when servicing, cleaning and so on, you need to break the barrel, and it is not always convenient to fire a pellet to uncock the mechanism.

The first step in shooting during our test sequence is to chronograph and zero. We used the recommended Webley Special pellets, but also Wasp, El Gamo and a

range of RWS pellets. The Webley Special did suit the Air Wolf and, being a low priced pellet, would suit the pocket of the junior shooter.

It gave good accuracy at 10 metres, putting all shots consistently into a hole a mere 5/16 in across. The same pellet on average produced 450 fps — around 6½ ft lbs. Both of these statistics exceed figures seen in advertising literature for the Air Wolf. To confirm these figures, which appeared a little higher than expected, I again put the rifle through the chronograph and after firing maybe 200 pellets during the testing I found the figures unchanged. It will be apparent from the energy figure that live quarry should be limited to rats and similar sized quarry at no more than 20 yards. Anything larger or more distant would be stretching the humane killing capability of the rifle — which, after all, is not its primary function.

As is our wont, we fitted a Tasco 2-7 × 32 scope for fine accuracy testing. We then encountered our first major snag. The dovetail cut into the top of the receiver was too short at only 3 ins and would not accept the Apel one-piece mount. We used a Sportsmatch two-piece instead and, though this fitted without trouble, the eye relief adjustment left was absolutely nil.

This may be no great problem for most junior owners, but even so I would rate this as a minus for the general configuration. I would have liked to have seen grooves six inches or so long.

I was uncomfortable when shooting over the table, having to draw myself well back from the scope eyepiece to attain a decent sight picture. When standing upright the problem eased and as most rifles are shot free standing my criticism should not deter any would-be purchasers looking for a rifle of this type.

During the shooting performance, I used both 5.5 mm and 5.6 mm pellets. We discovered that seating 5.6 mm pellets flush into the breech of the German made Air Wolf was not easy. This problem was accentuated by the fact that the face of the breech is cut at an angle, leaving the bottom edge of the pellet skirt slightly proud.

If left protruding the pellet invariably deformed upon closing. If pressed home into the breech by a seating tool the accuracy was adversely affected. Every pellet dropped by some inches and the group opened to an unusual degree. It is important to use 5.5 mm pellets, therefore. The Air Wolf seemed quite happy with most of the 5.5 mm pellets used, although there were a few exceptions of course.

Group sizes ranged from 1¼ ins to ⅝ in, with most being 1 in, all shot at 25 yards. Since their introduction I have found that Superdome are becoming one of my favourites — the Air Wolf liked them too! I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by this accuracy. Knockdowns, pigeon decoys, tin cans and all back garden types of fun targets can be tackled with great enjoyment once you have mastered the trigger. With a scope fitted shooting to the level outlined above is quite within reach.

The Webley Air Wolf goes to the customer in a plain cardboard carton with instruction leaflet, airgun law leaflet and an allen key for rearsight removal should its position interfere with any scope that may be fitted.

So, to sum up I would say that the Webley Air Wolf is probably one of the leaders among plinking and informal target air weapons. It is admirably suited to the younger shooter in its dimensions, ease of cocking, simplicity of handling and good accuracy — all for just £53.70, a price which I consider to be reasonable.

It is a rifle that I have recommended since its introduction, and this opinion has now been further strengthened. I cannot help but continue to give it my fullest support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Maker:	Mayer & Grammelspacher
Model:	Air Wolf
Calibre Tested:	.22 (also made in .177)
Weight:	5 lbs 15 oz
Overall Length:	41½ ins
Barrel Length:	17¼ ins
Stock:	Beech
Foresight:	Hooded post, non-interchangeable
Rearsight:	Tangent click adjusted for windage and elevation
Trigger:	Single stage non-adjustable
Price:	£53.70

RATINGS OUT OF 10

Metal Finish	8
Stock Finish	7
Trigger	6
Power	6
Accuracy	7
Handling	8
Value For Money	8

ASI MAGNUM

The second of our back-to-back tests is the ASI Magnum, made in .22 only. Due to its European origins, the metric calibre is 5.5 mm.

The Magnum is made by El Gamo of Spain and marketed in the UK by ASI of Saxmundham, Suffolk. It is a barrel cocker, latched in position by a spring loaded detent. This is a secure system, in this instance bordering on the point of being a little difficult to open and close. A sharp tap is sometimes needed to break the latch open. A drop of quality lubricant helps overcome the stiffness.

The blueing is not very distinguished — quite uniform in shade but rather dull and

lifeless. Nevertheless I cannot recall seeing a Magnum with worn blueing, despite it having been on the market for some years now, so I can only praise it for durability.

The scope dovetails are cut into the receiver top. They are 4½ ins long, and an adjustable scope stop is included. The rear of the receiver is completed with a plastic end cap. Sling swivels are also fitted as standard, all for the inclusive recommended retail price of £73.

Overall length is 43½ ins with an 18-inch barrel. The weight, at 7¾ lbs, is comfortable and in fact the Magnum handles and balances well.

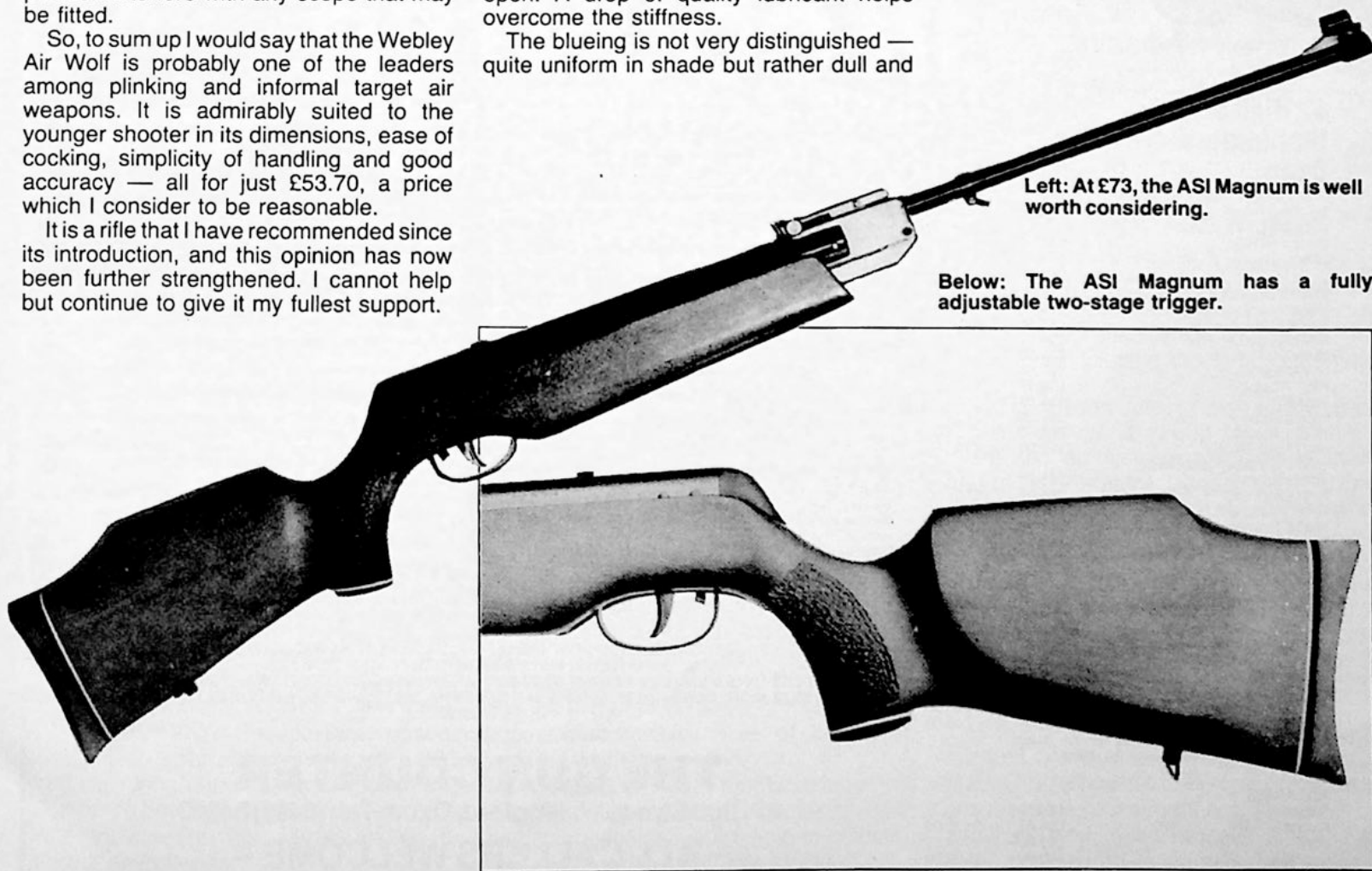
The trigger is a two-stage adjustable type, which proved to be one of the poorer features of the rifle as a whole. A very spongy, long pull, with no positive stop at the end of the first pressure, made a definite shot release very difficult. Adjustment made a difference to the pressure needed to fire but did nothing to improve the timing.

Despite firing many rounds during the testing period, I must confess that I never really got to grips with this trigger. I considered the possibility that this might have been a 'one off' but on trying others from our stock there proved to be little difference between individual rifles.

A manual safety catch is fitted. It is in the form of a secondary 'trigger' which drops from the action inside the trigger guard, situated to the rear of the normal trigger. It is very positive and of course cannot be overlooked as your finger will touch it when set in the safety mode as you reach for the trigger.

Cocking effort needed was very low, making it an easy rifle for the younger

continued on page 34



Left: At £73, the ASI Magnum is well worth considering.

Below: The ASI Magnum has a fully adjustable two-stage trigger.

person to handle. The Magnum can also be uncocked using the usual procedure of holding the barrel firmly in the open position, releasing the trigger, and allowing the spring to release.

The rearsight is all metal of the tangent type, adjustable for windage and elevation by a large top wheel and side knob, their size making them easy to manipulate. The click stops are very positive, thereby ensuring that they do not alter when being placed in and out of sleeves, or inadvertently moved when in use.

The foresight is a hooded ramp with a wide square-topped post. The combination gives a good sight picture even against a poor background or in failing light.

The stock is beech with a pistol grip finished off with a butt cap and white spacer. The pistol grip has stippled panels on each side, the only area that is not plain. All Magnums are light in colour, finished with a lacquer. The rubber butt plate is deeply curved, giving a nice feel in the shoulder, and also has a white spacer. The stock has a cheekpiece for the right-handed shooter but it is not pronounced and the Magnum will be equally comfortable from either shoulder. Finding suitable rifles for left-handed shooters is difficult at times, so the Magnum scores points with this feature.

In keeping with our normal practice, we fitted a Tasco 2-7 x 32 on a one-piece Apol mount. The scope rail readily accepted this assembly and left adequate room for eye relief adjustment, an aspect that I was very pleased to see.

Shooting began at 10 metres and the Magnum was chronographed using the ASI recommended pellet by El Gamo in 5.5 mm. Energy was 10.5 ft lbs and accuracy quite good at this shorter distance, putting all shots within one hole of 3/8 in. I was expecting this level of performance, as a customer's combination passing through the workshop recently had put up similar figures.

The long range performance at 25 yards did not hold together with this pellet, however. The rifle was rather choosy as to what pellets suited, in fact, and the El Gamo was bottom of the list on the day. It is quite adequate as low price plinking ammo, but with live targets a superior pellet should be chosen. Energy is of secondary importance if you cannot hit anything.

Average group sizes were 1 inch, with RWS Superdome a little tighter at 3/4 in. For the benefit of users preferring the more accurate pellet, we chronographed again after determining the best that we had used at 25 yards. In this case it was Superdome, which gave 9.8 ft lbs — a drop from the El Gamo, and I would suggest that you experiment with as many leading makes of pellet as is convenient and practical to determine those most suitable for your needs.

This is always a general recommendation of ours at all times but one to be stressed for the Magnum. The Superdome would certainly be on my shortlist, giving both good accuracy and energy, with perhaps Diabolo and Silver Jet also included for consideration after our

experience of shooting a great many targets with 15 different pellets.

The ASI Magnum most certainly fills a spot in the air rifle table. Rather middle of the road in general performance, styling and price, and to my eyes rather unexciting. For those seeking a plinking rifle with perhaps a little field target action and maybe some hunting, then the Magnum is worth trying. Should a limited budget also be part of the criteria, then it becomes an even stronger contender at £73.

SPECIFICATIONS

Maker:	El Gamo.
Model:	Magnum.
Calibre:	Made only in 5.5 mm.
Weight:	7 3/4 lbs.
Overall Length:	43 1/2 ins.
Barrel Length:	18 ins.
Stock:	Beech.
Foresight:	Tunnel and post.
Rearsight:	Tangent, adjustable for windage and elevation.
Trigger:	Two-stage adjustable.
Price:	£73.

RATINGS

Metal Finish:	5
Stock Finish:	5
Trigger:	4
Power:	8
Accuracy:	7
Handling:	8
Value For Money:	7



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Tempest	£54.95	—
Vulcan DL	£95.00	£103.00

BSA (.177 & .22)

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Meteor Super Air Rifle	£55.00	£59.95
Mercury Air Rifle	£69.00	—
Mercury 'S' Air Rifle	£82.00	—
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Last year's *Airgun World* stand was bursting with readers, but this year there will be room for everyone at the Airgun Fair!



HEAD FOR HAREWOOD

Christine Walker reviews this year's CLA Game Fair

This year's CLA Game Fair — the highlight of the country sports year — will be held at Harewood House, near Leeds in Yorkshire on July 31st and August 1st and 2nd.

Airgunning will be among the top attractions this year with a top quality field target shoot — after last year's late cancellation fiasco — and, for the first time, an Airgun Fair sponsored by *Airgun World*. Many of you will already have enjoyed the successful Airgun Fair at the BASC Gamekeepers' Fair at Packington Park in April and will know what to expect. In addition there will, of course, be the traditional air rifle target range — always a popular favourite.

Sixteen of the premier names in the airgun trade will be exhibiting their wares alongside the *Airgun World* stand — where you will have the chance to meet the Editor and his team, plus many of *Airgun World's* writers who will be happy to answer any of your queries. There will also be a modified version of our hugely successful 'Bring and Buy' service from Packington — where readers can bring along any airguns or accessories for us to sell for them. So if you did not get your chance at Packington, come along to the Game Fair.

Apart from the *Airgun World* stand you will have the chance to talk to the many experts on the various trade stands — and here are the names you will be able to meet.

ABBEY SUPPLY. One of the foremost companies specialising in gun care products along with a range of knockdown targets. Abbey also produce several gun care leaflets and are always willing to answer any queries.

AIR ARMS. With their top range of British manufactured rifles such as the Camargue and the Khamsin, plus their range of quality shooting accessories, the Air Arms stand will be well worth visiting.

AIRMASTERS. A firm committed to the development of field target shooting, who produce a first class range of customised rifles and accessories as well as their well-known range of Knockdown targets.

BARNETT INTERNATIONAL. This famous manufacturer of crossbows and longbows, with bows at all prices for all age groups, will be an added attraction for airgunners.

CINDY'S SHOOTING SHOP. This top Midlands airgun retailer — and keen field target fan — has a full range of air weapons, scopes and accessories for you to sample.

GUNPELL. Returning after a successful show at Packington, this specialist company produces packets of pellet 'clones' — each guaranteed to have exactly the same dimensions and weight.

GUNSPORT. The top airgun and accessory retailer, who specialises in customised rifles as well as the Ox mainspring and the Maximiser conversion kit.

HARPER CLASSIC GUNS. Meet Steve Harper and his unique range of air canes. Steve also has a collection of various guns converted to non-standard calibres.

HILLER AIRGUNS. A top airgun retailer specialising in collectors' items, plus your chance to meet Dennis Hiller himself, who has published a number of books on vintage air rifle collecting.

NORTHERN ARMS. From Doncaster this company are custom specialists with particular expertise in the field of gold and brass inlay work on air rifle stocks.

SHARPSHOOTERS. From Sussex this company will provide you with all the outdoor airgunning clothing you need, plus full range of field and field target accessories.

OPTIMA LEISURE COMPANY. The large and very well known airgun retailer, who also produce a considerable range of 'own brand' scopes and accessories.

TARGET SPORTS. Ian Kirby will be only too willing to advise you on the best rifle, scope or accessory for your needs, and you will be able to browse over the customised TS rifles.

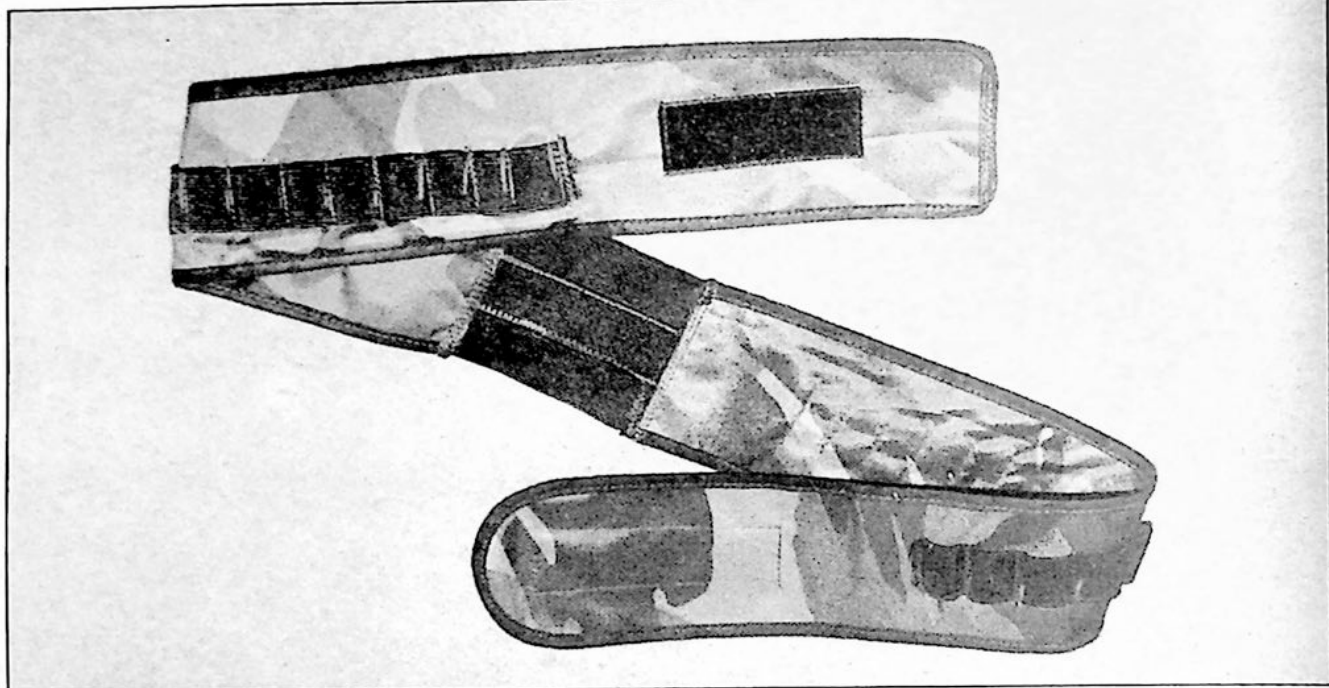
TEAL COUNTRYWEAR. A new addition to airgun fairs — and a new name to most of you — this company manufactures a range of clothing specifically designed for airgunners, including the famous Kammo brand.

VENOM ARMS. Always one of the most popular stands at airgun fairs, Venom's talent and enthusiasm have made them one of the country's leading air weapons specialists — producing a superb range of customised and tuned rifles, and an array of accessories.

WEBLEY & SCOTT. One of the most famous names in British airgun manufacture. Visit the Webley stand if you are interested in their rifles, pistols or silencers — or the range of Tasco scopes.

With the added attraction of the airgun fair and the field target shoot, this year's Game Fair looks set to be one of the most successful yet for airgunners. There will be a full preview in our special Game Fair issue next month — on sale July 10th.

Right: The Air Force cartridge belt is ideal for all Saxby & Palmer owners.



HAVING BOUGHT your amazingly expensive rifle with its walnut stock, two-stage trigger, barrel weight/silencer, the latest telescopic zoom sight fitted with one-piece mounts and a hand crafted leather sling, what do you buy next? A gunbag of course! Only the best will do for your outfit naturally, so you spend upwards of £20 on a padded and reinforced bag with full length zip. Now you have everything — or do you?

Last year I met an airgunner with just this type of equipment and he had just purchased a second gunbag, much cheaper and more basic than his first. The reason — because he had spent so much on his first gunbag and was understandably reluctant to get it dirty and wet by taking it into the field! At first I thought that he was a little mad — after all, a gunbag is supposed to protect your weapon by keeping the dirt off, but how can it do that without getting slightly dirty itself?

I have since met several people who have felt the same way and I must admit that I am quickly coming round to their way of thinking, too. To understand my reasons, consider what you use your gunbag for. Obviously it is to carry your gun. If you think carefully, though, most people carry their rifle to the shoot in a car. Here it bounces and slides around while the car is moving and the purpose of the gunbag — if it is padded — is to protect the stock from knocks and damage, while also preventing the zero of the sights being disturbed.

When you are at the shoot and walking around it has a quite different role. Ideally, it should be camouflaged or made from a drab coloured material at the very least. It should also be water-resistant, if not waterproof, and should also be lightweight. After all, you probably have 10 lbs of rifle to lug around for miles and any unnecessary weight will be most unwelcome.

Take a look at your smart gunbag now. Does it meet all these requirements? The chances are not. What you need is a second, thinner gunbag for use around the shoot, in addition to your main bag which provides everyday protection. I think that I may have the answer.

ACCESSORIES FOR ALL

Jonathan Wilkes looks at gear from Air Force and Buck



The new one-piece silencer from Air Force has a durable black coating.

Air Force produce a DPM camouflaged gunbag that is made from a waterproofed nylon material. Its weight is insignificant weighing only a few ounces and it is compact enough to fit in the pocket of any shooting jacket. Although it may at first appear too narrow for a rifle and scope, a gusset is provided which allows easy access for even the largest of lenses.

A shoulder strap is the only means of carrying the bag, which I recommend is done with the muzzle pointing downwards. The fastening at the butt end is a single press stud which I wouldn't trust to hold the weight of a heavy gun.

I can vouch for the waterproofing of this material, too. While testing the BSA VS2000, I spent a good hour or two perched on a damp mound of grass testing its accuracy. Were it not for the fact that I was sitting on this bag, I would have had a very wet backside! Excellent value at only £5.95.

If you are a fashion conscious Saxby & Palmer shooter and would like a matching cartridge belt for your gunbag, then Air Force make something for you, too! Their cartridge belt is constructed from a rough

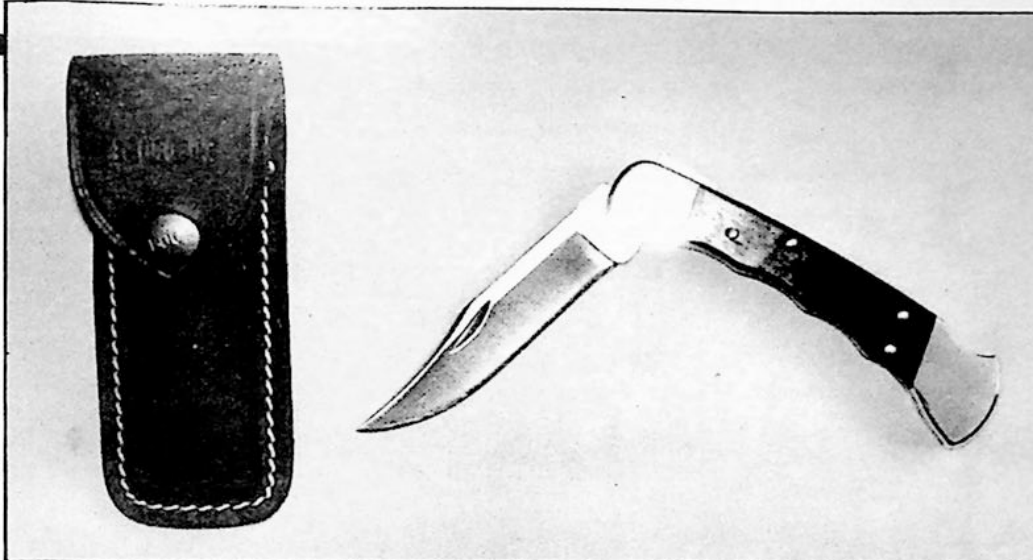
nylon fabric which should withstand many years' hard use. The cartridges themselves are held in place by elasticated webbing, which ensures that they will not accidentally fall out and yet are easy to remove when needed.

Only one size is available, but a single Velcro fastening strip means that sufficient adjustment is possible. If you happen to be a really portly gent — or lady — then there is a section of elastic webbing let into the back of the belt which will stretch to another inch or two. Personally, although I'm thin, I found that the belt was too big for my waist, even at its tightest position.

All in all I would rate this as an excellent purchase for any Saxby & Palmer owner who doesn't want those expensive cartridges to end up in the mud!

Sticking with Air Force camouflage products for the moment, how about a DPM pellet pouch? Designed to hold over 500 pellets — more than enough for a year's normal hunting, let alone one trip — it slides neatly on to the shooter's belt where it is easily accessible, whatever your shooting position.

The flap is fastened with Velcro — but



The Buck Hunter folding lock knife will find a home with many serious shooters.

only in the centre. This leaves the edges of the flap without any form of seal and I think that anyone who spends a long time crawling around on his — or her — stomach will undoubtedly lose a few pellets through this oversight. If they are the cheaper lead varieties then this probably will not matter too much, but if they are Prometheus or Titan Black then you might be less than happy.

The Velcro patch makes quite a noise when opened and would probably cause the local wildlife to take cover every time you loaded your gun. This is a pity as it is an otherwise excellent accessory that would be of use to all airgunners. At only £1.95, though, it is still tremendous value for money.

Without wishing to make this month's *Shop Window* an Air Force monopoly, I thought you would like to hear about their new one-piece steel silencer. It is a push-fit silencer which will fit most air rifle muzzles and is held in place by a grub screw which grips the barrel. Being made from steel means that it has some weight to it and makes a useful barrel weight as well as a silencer. It is surprising the number of rifles that would benefit in terms of accuracy from a barrel weight as the majority are slightly muzzle light.

The controversy concerning the benefits of having the muzzle report reduced continues to rage as having any great effect under field conditions. I have adopted the maxim that if you feel happier with one,

then you may shoot better because of it. Certainly the muzzle report of my rifle seemed to be less, but only slightly. I could not think of any detrimental effect that this silencer could cause and so any shooter might be well advised to fit one anyway — just in case!

Being made from steel means that rust can be a problem so the finish of any silencer is important. The Air Force silencer has a tough black coating that looks as though it will not wear off too easily. The price of the new silencer is slightly below average at £12.95.

Last on this month's shopping list is another knife from Springfield Firearms — the Buck Hunter folding lock-knife.

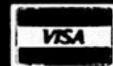
Buck are a well respected American knife manufacturer in the best tradition and have an enviable reputation in terms of blade quality alone. Having used — and abused! — it for the last month or two I will vouch for that! I have sharpened it only once — and even then it didn't really need it.

The emphasis is undoubtedly on practicality. While the knife looks quite handsome, it has not been obviously designed to be. The grips are constructed from brass and wood with strong rivetting throughout. The fit of the components is excellent and the locking mechanism looks strong enough to withstand anything.

I think that this is a purposeful, businesslike knife that will find a home in the pocket of many a serious shooter who is interested in performance rather than looks. Together with its quality leather sheath it costs £39.75 plus VAT and P&P. It is expensive, but it will probably outlive you!

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WEIHRAUCH HW77 (New Model).....	£109.00
WEIHRAUCH HW50.....	£57.00
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CLUB CALL

Lesley Shepperdley visits Bucks AR & PC

Committee members and shooters at Bucks AR & PC.

This month's club is Bucks AR & PC. In fact it's a group of clubs in the Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas, brought together under one body. Although the group was formed only in the early part of last year, they certainly haven't wasted any time formulating a good range, organising open shoots, helping new airgunners and, most important, putting the 'good' name of airgunning back on the map.

Tony Denyer, the Club's secretary, explained. 'It all started by accident. The Morris Range at Wendover is owned by Bucks County Rifle Association, but they couldn't find a use for it. It seemed such a waste of land that I thought it would be ideal for airgun shooting. So I put forward the suggestion, it was agreed and the following few months were spent contacting all the known air rifle clubs in the county and surrounding areas. It was from this that the Bucks Air Rifle & Pistol Club was formed', he says.

There are now seven clubs involved — High Wycombe & District, Burnham, Little

Airgunners can shoot under cover at the Morris Range, Wendover.



THIS IS the first of a series of articles in which we plan to take a look at various airgun clubs up and down the country. With so many new organisations springing up almost daily, we thought it would be a good idea to look at a cross-section to see the facilities they provide, the events they run and how they came to be formed originally. Hopefully, from reading the articles, you will be able to see what the clubs offer — and perhaps it will give you a few ideas to start up your own.



Bucks AR & PC attracts shooters of all ages.

Chalfont, Thame & Chinnor, Marlow, Hazelmere, Princes Risborough, Chiltern and Wye Valley. This number will increase to eight as soon as the Little Chalfont Golf Club and AR & PC joins the group — but not all the clubs are newly formed. Many of the affiliated clubs were formed years ago — the oldest being High Wycombe & District, which started as a small bore rifle club before the last War.

Regular meetings are held at Tinkers Wood School, Downley, to arrange future shoots, and last year the club held two open competitions. A further six shoots were planned for 1986 at the club's Wendover Range and their last competition on March 31st attracted an entry of over 130 shooters, with trophy and plaque prizes. As Tony Denyer says, 'There was so much interest in the competition beforehand that my telephone hardly stopped ringing. We had shooters from all over the country turn up on the day and at one point I was worried that we would have too many entries!'

The club's main field target competition is a partially hidden ten knockdown target course set out at four to 45 yards. A great



14-year-old Neil Chamberlain with his Air Arms Mistral.

deal of time and effort is spent setting up the course to make sure competitors have a really testing shoot, and at one time shooters made their own targets for the course. A sighting-in range and a fun shoot are also provided, and in future they also hope to put up a long-range competition, a running boar event and some small side shoots.

Younger shooters are very well catered for at the club. Junior members, from 11-21 years, have their own club at Princes Risborough, run under the watchful eye of John Benyon who is safety officer for the boy's brigade. Junior shooters also have their own competition, for which there is no entry charge, with sweet prizes for the winners.

Match shooting is also well catered for at the various clubs, particularly at Little Chalfont, Hazelmere and High Wycombe, and this year has seen the start of match shooting competitions.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the club — apart from the friendly attitude of all the shooters and their willingness to help each other — is the importance of safety which is impressed on everyone. A red flag is always flying when shooting is in progress, committee members constantly stand behind the shooters to ensure no accidents occur and during open competitions a special range is provided for anyone who would like to have a go, with experienced shooters always in attendance.

Next year the club hope to form a Bucks County Field target team. The way they have progressed during the past two years leaves me in no doubt that this will happen — perhaps even before then.

If you live in Buckinghamshire or surrounding counties and would like to join Bucks AR & PC, contact the secretary, Tony Denyer on Penn 2710.



STATE OF THE ART air rifles are in demand. Today the serious hunter or field target shooter wants the very best in air rifle design and performance, and it is this constant quest for technical perfection that has heralded a new era of air weaponry.

One of the foremost advanced air rifle companies — who have successfully combined a 'grass roots' understanding of the modern airgunner's needs with the very latest in modern technology — is the Luton based company of Airmasters. Airmasters are a family firm and their commitment to the sport of field target shooting has never been more apparent than in their current range of precision, customised sporting air weapons.

This month's colour pull-out features the very latest offerings from Airmasters, with the 'appliance of science' — the futuristically styled Mastersport FTS — taking pride of place. Also shown alongside the Mastersport FTS is the new Mastersport Dominator, a rifle designed to utilise the superb accuracy of the Mastersport 77 for both competition and hunting.

Each of the rifles featured in this month's colour pull-out is the result of lengthy and continuous research and development. The result is a range of rifles that should satisfy the most discerning shooter, with prices to suit most budgets. Since they opened their shop on May 11th last year Airmasters have never looked back, and just one glance overleaf will tell you why!

The main picture shows the Airmasters' Mastersport FTS — which Airmasters claim is the only air weapon to have been designed specifically for the field target 'professional'. Based on the Weihrauch HW77, the Mastersport FTS has a completely new field target walnut stock with an adjustable cheekpiece which can be varied to suit any shooting position.

With its Mastertuned action for ultimate smoothness and consistency, and its adjustable butt-plate or hook to give infinite variability — and rock steady anchorage — the Mastersport FTS is the field target rifle of tomorrow for the winners of today. The Mastersport FTS has already made its mark in the hands of many of the established field target shooting stars such as Mark Camoccio and Roger Cameron. Our picture shows the Mastersport FTS fitted with one of the new 3-9 Redfield scopes, with its unique Accu-Trak range finding device, which should prove to be tremendously popular with all field target shooters. It is mounted on a Contour one-piece mount.

Just as stunning as the Mastersport FTS is the new Airmasters Dominator. Its slim profile and weight saving style make the Dominator ideal for a full day's shooting without undue fatigue. Based on the Weihrauch HW77, the Dominator — like the Mastersport FTS — boasts a host of exciting features specifically designed to help you get the most from your shooting. The Dominator is another rifle which features Airmasters' exclusive palm-fitting fore-end, for superb control in awkward firing positions. The Dominator featured in our pull-out is fitted with a Redfield 6x scope on Contour two-piece mounts — a package that will take some beating.

The top left picture features the Airmasters sporting selection. Heading the

AIRGUN WORLD

PULL-OUT MASTERSPORT COLLECTION

STATE OF THE ART

sporting trio is the superb Mastersport FT, a budget priced version of the Mastersport FTS. Don't be fooled by the word 'budget', as the Mastersport FT shares many of the refinements of its bigger brother. The walnut stock has vertical and horizontal thumb shelves for precise trigger control and the new Airmasters exclusive extra wide hand chequered fore-end with scalloped finger grips, for complete control. The Mastersport FT is shown fitted with a Redfield 2-7 Tracker scope on Contour two-piece mounts — a winning combination in the right hands.

Beneath the Mastersport FT is the famous Mastersport FFW — one of the leading hunting and field target weapons available today. Based on the Feinwerkbau Sport, the Mastersport FFW needs no introduction. Its reputation as a hard hitting, value for money sporting rifle is second to none. Power, as you would expect, is right on the legal limit and it is a rifle that is just as at home in the field as on the ranges. With the inherent engineering prowess of Feinwerkbau and that special Airmasters 'magic', the Mastersport FFW shown is fitted with a Zeiss 3-9 x 36 scope on Apel one-piece mounts — and it represents tremendous value for money.

This Mastersport Stalker shows how effective Airmasters' products can be for hunting as well as field target.



At the bottom of the sporting trio is the Mastersport HW80 Stalker, fitted with a Tasco IR 3-9 x 40 WA scope on Sportmatch mounts. Airmasters have taken the basic Weihrauch HW80 to new heights to give you a classy looking weapon that shoots as well as it looks! Balance and weight are superb, as is the attention to detail that goes into every Mastersport rifle.

At the bottom right we have the Airmasters Tyrolean selection, headed by the Tyrolean stocked HW77. Like its brother, the Tyrolean stocked HW80 shown at the bottom of the trio, the Airmasters Tyrolean HW77 combines all the very best in materials and quality, to give superb smoothness and consistency. The HW77 is shown fitted with a low profile 2-7 WA Redfield scope on two-piece Apel mounts, while the HW80 at the bottom is fitted with a 3-9 Redfield Accu-Trak scope on Contour one-piece mounts.

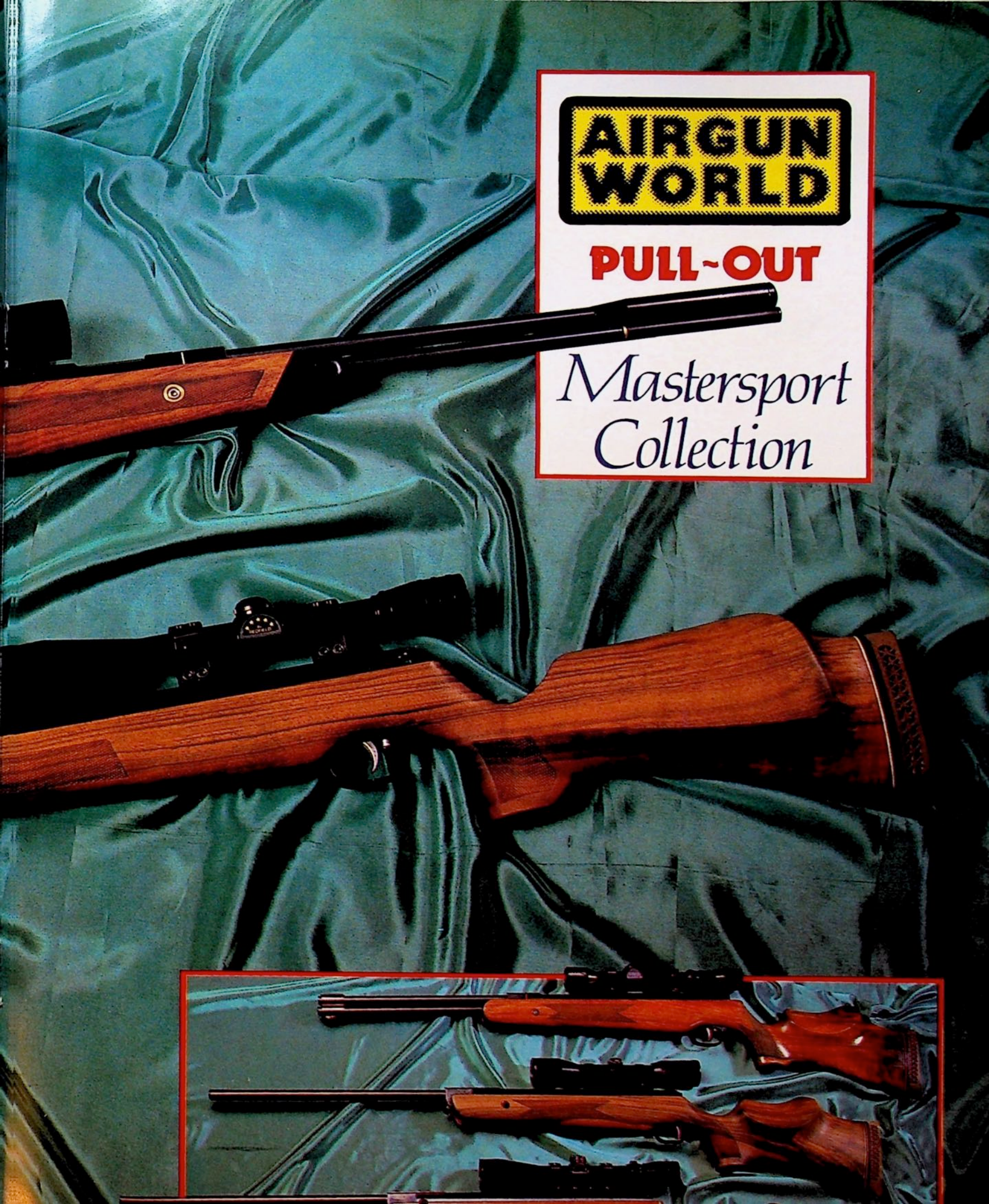
In the centre of the Tyrolean trio is the Feinwerkbau Sport, fitted with a Zeiss 3-9 x 36 scope on Apel one-piece mounts. The Feinwerkbau range of rifles was among the first to receive the Airmasters 'magic touch' and they have achieved numerous field target victories.

Airmasters is not just a shop offering a bewildering array of rifles and accessories but also an airgun centre where new ideas are continually tried and tested. Dave, John and Richard Welham are the men behind Airmasters, and they have been at the forefront of the growth in field target shooting. Much of their time is spent trying to refine and create features to help you shoot winning scores and collect bigger bags.

Airmasters are very proud that they can rightly say, 'Only the best will do'. Unfortunately top quality does not come cheap these days and if you want the best you have to pay for it. With all Airmasters products, especially with their rifles, you get what you pay for — quality products which have been designed for a purpose, to give you air weapons that you can be proud of.

If you don't believe us, just look at the various field shoot results in *Airgun World* each month. It's a safe bet that the name Welham will appear time over. If you get the chance, why not ask Richard, Dave or John to explain in greater detail just how superb the Mastersport Collection is.





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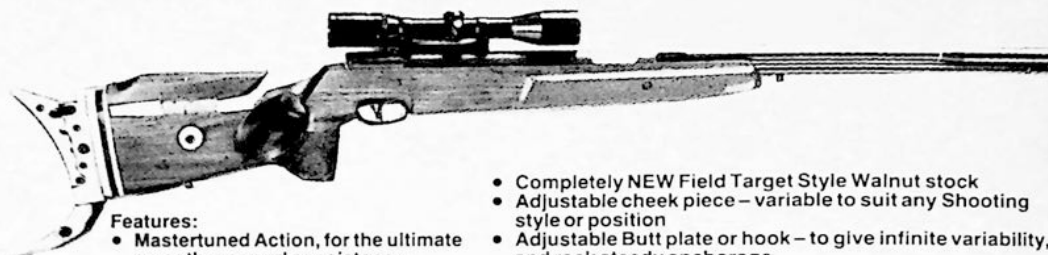
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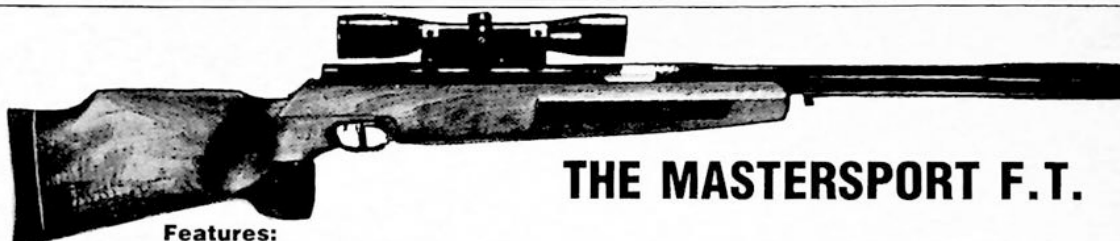
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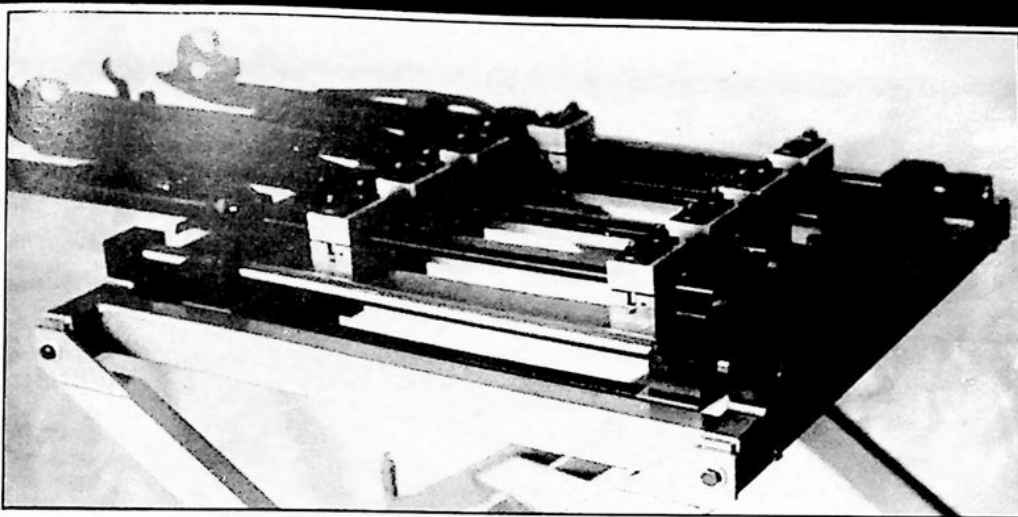
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Bench testing the rifles and pellets produced some amazing results.



John Fletcher describes some ballistic tests with Theoben and Prometheus

WHEN THE .22 Theoben Prometheus Sirocco was tested in the May issue of *Airgun World* it was rated at 12 ft lbs muzzle energy. Recently, however, the rifle was returned to Theoben Engineering to increase its power to FAC standard.

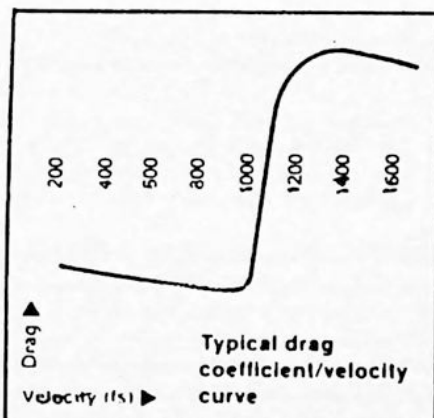
Ben Taylor of Theoben stripped the action and finely tuned the rifle by varying the stroke and the pressure in the gas ram to obtain optimum performance. The Sirocco is the only air rifle that lends itself easily to being tuned in this way.

The muzzle velocity rose from 775 fps to an amazing 1,200 fps using Prometheus hunting pellets, and about 940 fps using Titan Blacks. This is more than the muzzle energy obtained when using conventional lead pellets.

Ben then fitted a scope and the rifle was tested for accuracy on a 10 metre indoor range. Who needs the exclusive test bench at Pax Airguns when Ben Taylor can shoot 10 shot, one hole groups less than 10 mm in diameter? Field target shooters can consider themselves lucky that, through lack of time, Ben does not enter events — otherwise some would be in for quite a surprise!

As the Prometheus was chronographed at a supersonic 1,200 fps, it produced a sonic bang louder than a .22 rimfire rifle. This was obviously undesirable as it would not only frighten the user, but also the prey. The essence of using an air rifle is silence, at least as far as British shooters are concerned. On the other side of the Atlantic, however, noise seems desirable. Silencers are banned even for air rifles in case they are used on cartridge rifles, which seems to me almost as ridiculous as our own regulations for gas powered target air pistols needing an FAC.

But back to the tests. Apart from the bang, the drag on the lightweight



Prometheus pellet was so great that this now 24 ft lbs FAC rifle's range was only a few yards more than that obtained from the 12 ft lbs version. If you refer to the drag v velocity graph, you can see that there is a very sharp increase in drag as the speed of sound is approached at around 1,100 fps. This velocity band must be avoided, and in fact firearm cartridges are designed to ensure that they are subsonic, or well above mach 1, when the drag starts to reduce again.

In fairness to Prometheus, though, their technical literature clearly states that the pellet is designed to produce its optimum performance at the UK legal limit of 12 ft lbs, and at this power level it is outstanding.

The Titan Black, however, being some 50 per cent heavier than Prometheus, is designed specifically for FAC air rifles. These pellets are ideal for the high powered Theoben, achieving a high muzzle energy coupled with a flat trajectory. So it is the Prometheus for the 12 ft lb Sirocco with the unchoked barrel, and the Titan for the FAC rated version.

Most readers will know that Theoben are working on a prototype air rifle called the Eliminator. This rifle is very powerful and even only a few years ago many people would not have thought it possible to produce this much power using a piston driven power source.

When tested, the Eliminator's muzzle energy was about 30 ft lbs using the nylon skirted pellets, compared with about 26 ft lbs using lead pellets. But would this supremely powerful air rifle perform as well with the nylon skirted pellets as it does with conventional lead pellets? A number of air rifle testers have claimed that certain air rifle combinations achieve one hole groups, ignoring fliers. But how large is the hole, and why the flier? One flier alone is enough to lose a target shooting championship — or a rabbit.

It really is an experience to see Ben Taylor call the shots and repeatedly hit a mark, smaller than the head of a drawing pin, on the 10 metre range. As Ben says, 'I never thought I would see the day when I would consider using plastic based pellets. This rifle shoots exactly where it is pointed'.

The lock time for this rifle and pellet combination is probably the fastest seen on a piston powered air rifle, and it feels very much like a .22 rimfire rifle to shoot.

Britain has always had the talent for innovation, but the skills to work together and finance to see the projects fulfilled have been sadly lacking. As a result we have lost most of our industries to foreign manufacturers, who have had little to offer as far as creative ability is concerned. We do have a lot to learn from them, though, when it comes to producing and delivering the goods.

It is certainly high time that two of our innovative British manufacturers combined their skills to challenge the best that any other rifle/pellet combination has to offer: Theoben Engineering and Pax Airguns are doing just that.

The new air rifles are available in limited numbers from Pax Airguns in London.

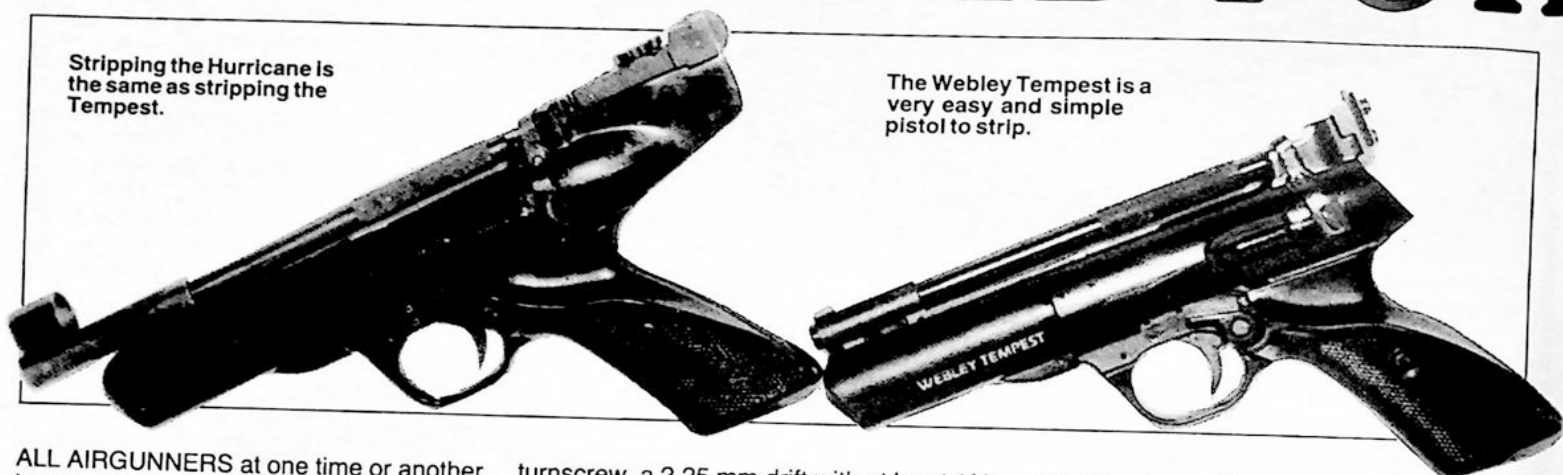


Ben Taylor (left) and Dave Theobald — the men behind the specially designed rifle.

STRIPPED FOR

Stripping the Hurricane is the same as stripping the Tempest.

The Webley Tempest is a very easy and simple pistol to strip.



ALL AIRGUNNERS at one time or another have used air pistols. Probably the very first air weapon which most of us fired was one from the range of air pistols made by Webley & Scott of Birmingham. This famous airgun company has been making air pistols for over 50 years and many of their original Senior, Junior and Mark I air pistols made before World War II are still in use today.

The basic design of Webley pistols has remained virtually unchanged and the two current models — the Tempest and its big brother, the Hurricane — are probably the two top best selling pistols in the UK. This month I will describe how to strip the Tempest air pistol, which is mechanically the same as the Hurricane — the latter having a fully hand adjustable, full size, rear sight, a longer sight base for more accurate target work and provision for fitting a Webley 1.5 x 15 pistol scope.

The Tempest is a very easy and simple pistol to strip and renovate, requiring only three simple tools — a small screwdriver or

turnscrew, a 2.25 mm drift with at least 1½ inch parallel length and a light hammer.

First, check that your pistol is uncocked, that your work bench or table is clear and you have suitable containers in which to place all the small parts as they are removed. I find that empty pellet tins and their lids are ideal for this.

The next stage is to unscrew and remove one of the grip or stock side screws and lift the plastic grip away from the frame. You will then see a circular nut set in the frame into which the grip screw fits. If you gently push this metal nut, the opposite grip will separate from the frame and can be removed with the nut still attached.

Now place the pistol on its side on your work surface and using the drift, carefully tap out the fore-end roll pin, situated just in front of the trigger guard. You will now be able to pull off the plastic fore-end, exposing the forward part of the cylinder.

Webley have standardised the size of their fixing and axis pins by fitting only two sizes in both the Tempest and Hurricane pistols. Six roll pins of uniform size are used in the trigger/trigger guard assembly. To

strip this, these pins should be removed as follows.

Tap out both the front and rear roll pins holding the trigger guard in position. Then pull the trigger guard down and away from the frame. Make sure you retain the rear spring, which is held in position by the front stud of the trigger guard.

Tap out the trigger axis pin and remove the trigger unit complete with its adjusting screw and spring. You will notice that the sear is pivoted on the upper of the two remaining pins — the lower pin acting as a stop pin to prevent the sear over-riding the trigger. Remove the sear stop pin, followed by the sear axis pin, and gently shake the sear out of the body frame. Once the trigger mechanism has been completely removed, you can now dismantle the safety mechanism.

The manual safety catch on the left-hand side of the pistol frame is easily stripped. First, unscrew and remove the 'safe' lever fixing screw, and carefully prise off the safe lever making sure that you keep it square on the safety shaft. With the safe lever removed, you can now lift off the safety catch spring and the safety shaft can be withdrawn from the right-hand side of the frame.

With the trigger and safe mechanism completely removed, it is now possible to strip and remove the mainspring and piston assembly.

Using the parallel drift, partially tap out the solid barrel fulcrum pin at the front of the cylinder. Tap this pin very gently until it is just clear of the barrel lug, allowing the barrel to be raised slightly above the cylinder.

The next stage is to push the barrel catch or stirrup forward, disengaging the breech end of the barrel. You can now ease the front end of the barrel, with its pivot lug, out of the front of the cylinder. Slide the cocking link assembly towards the rear of the pistol so that the small link can be withdrawn through the enlarged hole in the cocking link slot in the top of the cylinder. Don't forget to place the barrel, with its linkage, safely to one side.

The mainspring and piston assembly are removed in the following manner. First, hold the pistol firmly by its handle and press

Removing the plastic fore-end exposes the forward part of the cylinder.



ACTION by Paul Hanson

the end of the spring guide in the front of the cylinder hard against the work top. Keeping sufficient pressure on the spring guide, tap or ease out the barrel fulcrum pin. Then carefully ease the pressure off the pistol, which will enable the spring guide to come out of the cylinder under the pressure of the mainspring.

Remove the spring guide and mainspring. When new, the mainspring should measure seven inches. If the spring is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ ins shorter than this — all springs take a 'set' when fitted into a rifle or pistol — then consider replacing it.

To remove the piston for examination, insert your screwdriver, edge on, through the cocking link slot in the top of the cylinder. Push against the raised edge of the piston and pull it down towards the open end of the cylinder. When you reach the end of the cylinder body, reposition the screwdriver in the piston sear groove to be able to push the piston completely out of the cylinder.

Examine the piston washer for any wear. If you intend to fit a new piston washer, which is always advisable having stripped any weapon this far, simply lever off the old washer and spring the new one in place. You will notice that the nylon piston washer is split to facilitate fitting and removal.

The plastic grips are removed by unscrewing two screws.

To remove the barrel latch, simply remove the latch fulcrum pin using your drift and hammer. Then pull the barrel latch off the rear of the body and pull out the latch plunger and its small coil spring. With the latch removed, you can now replace the barrel joint or sealing washer. To do this, insert the drift into the hole in the washer and prise the seal out of its recess — you will notice that the joint washer is flat on one edge and radiused on the other. Always fit the new washer with the radiused edge facing outwards, towards the breech end of the barrel.

Before assembling the pistol, check each and every component — including pins and screws — for wear and replace any that are imperfect. The small cost of replacing worn parts will be rewarded with the increased efficiency.



continued on page 46

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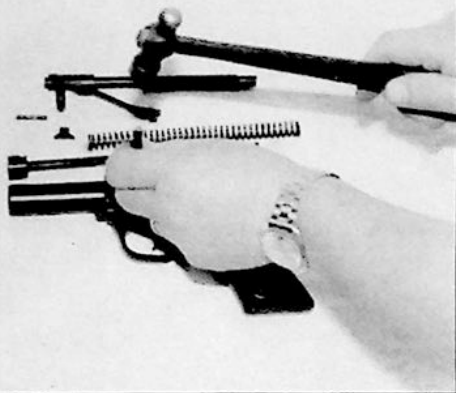
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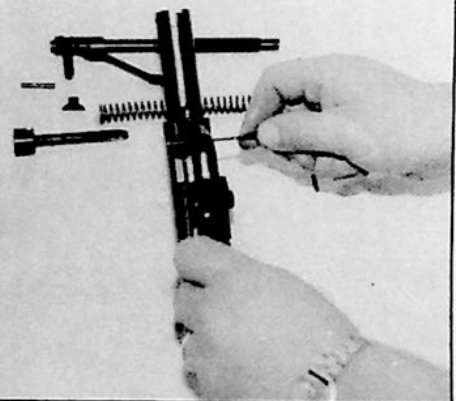
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4. THE WEBLEY PISTOLS

With a drift, tap out the barrel fulcrum pin at the front of the cylinder.



Tap out the trigger axis pin and remove the complete trigger unit.



continued from page 45

One area which can cause trouble is the cocking linkage system. If any of the three pins is worn or bent, this will have the effect of lengthening the linkage, which in turn will shorten the cocking stroke and, in extreme cases, prevent the pistol from cocking. Excessive wear on the front edge of the small link can have the same effect. Always replace any worn linkage parts, particularly the axis pins.

If for any reason you are unable to obtain a new small link, a temporary measure is to turn the worn link round and refit it with the worn edge facing towards the rear of the pistol. This modification should only be used until you are able to obtain and fit a new component. When re-assembling the link mechanism, always ensure that the small link spring is positioned correctly.

Before refitting the piston, remove all the old dirt and oil from inside the cylinder and apply a very small amount of good airgun grease to the piston washer and to the rear bearing surface of the piston body. Apply the merest coating of the same grease or moly slip grease to the outside of both the new mainspring and the spring guide tube.

Slide the piece of flat steel — the link fulcrum — in its slot in the spring guide, making sure that it is positioned correctly when you push the mainspring and spring guide into the air cylinder. Again, use the top of the workbench to compress the components into position. When the barrel fulcrum pin holes are in line, insert the barrel fulcrum pin partially into position, leaving the barrel lug slot clear.

Now refit the barrel. When doing this, place a small amount of grease on the small link and the barrel lug. Then slide the small link into the cocking slot in the cylinder and push the barrel lug into its recess in the

spring guide. The barrel fulcrum pin can now be pushed right home. Refit the barrel latch with its plunger and spring, having applied a little grease to all the moving parts.

To refit the safety catch, it is essential that you hold the pistol with the barrel uppermost, pointing away from you. Insert the safety catch shaft from the right-hand side with the flat cutaway uppermost. Next, position the wire safety catch spring on the square end of the safety catch shaft. Fit the safety lever with its long edge pointing upwards and screw the fixing screw tightly home.

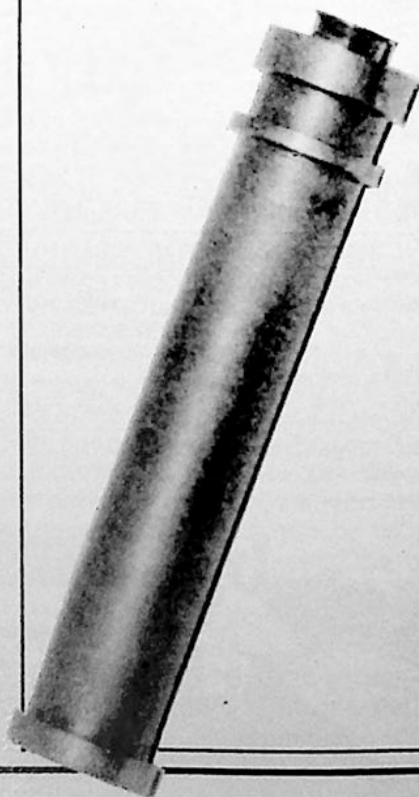
Turn the safety lever to the 'fire' position — until it is almost horizontal — before assembling the trigger mechanism. Refit the sear first, with its long leg pointing forwards, and tap in its axis roll pin. Then insert the trigger with its spring and adjusting screw in position. Replace the trigger axis roll pin and, using a small screwdriver or the drift, push the sear up so that it becomes engaged with the trigger. The sear stop pin can now be tapped in position.

Holding the pistol upside down on the workbench and facing away from you, drop the sear spring into position with the short curled arm engaged in the flat portion of the sear and the long straight arm positioned in the front trigger guard recess. Fit the trigger guard and, holding it firmly in position with your thumb, tap in both fixing roll pins.

All that's left is to replace the fore-end with its fixing pin and both the stock sides or grips. Your pistol is now fully assembled and ready to test.

Never fire a pistol or any air weapon without a pellet in the chamber. Use only good quality pellets such as any Webley brands or Eley Wasps. Whichever pellet you use, ensure it is a good, tight fit in the barrel.

It is always best to fit a new piston washer.



All parts should be checked for wear before reassembly.



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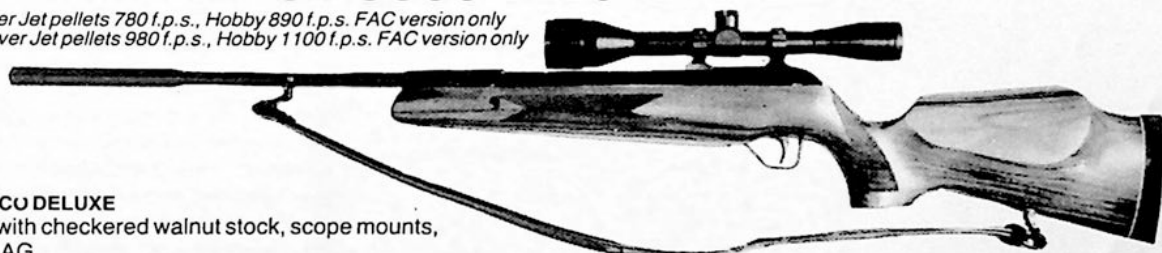
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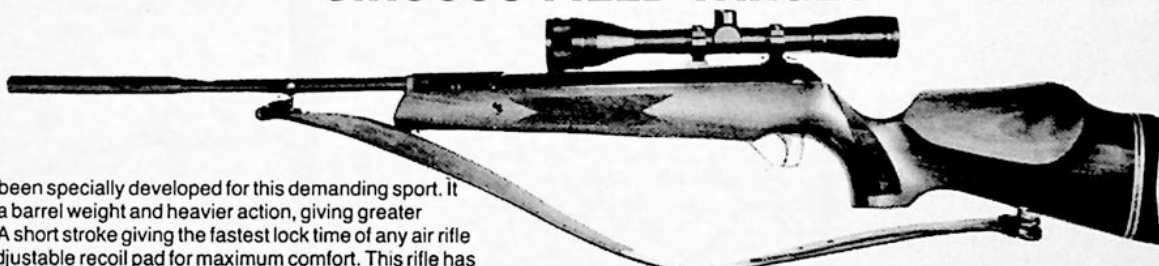
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BSA's New Leader

Jonathan Wilkes tests the new VS2000

The BSA VS2000 is a perfectly acceptable field rifle.



BRAND NEW RIFLES have been a little thin on the ground recently, and by 'brand new' I mean just that — not re-hashed or re-modelled rifles, but a totally new action and design. Perhaps the most promising one to emerge has been the BSA VS2000 — if you can lay your hands on one, that is!

I've been to my local gunshops — and quite a few that aren't so local — and asked to see one. 'They're not sending them out yet mate!', was the only reply I have received. At first, I guessed that they were having supply problems, but months have passed since they were first advertised so clearly something more than a supply problem was at fault.

When I was told that I would be getting a VS2000 for test this month I adopted my 'believe it when I see it' attitude, and sat back and waited. Eventually, it materialised — although only for two weeks — and I managed to test it after all thanks to the mini heatwave last month.

I collected the rifle from the *Airgun World* Airgun Fair at Packington Park on April 19th. *Airgun World* writer Arthur Shepherd was there, too, and he was just as interested as I was to see the gun 'in the flesh'. We both had the same idea, 'Let's take it to the plinking range to try it out!'

Initial reactions are always interesting, if not entirely accurate. The VS2000 feels heavy, although it only tips the scales at 9½ lbs, which is no more than a Weihrauch HW77. I admit that this surprised me because it feels heavier. This weight is concentrated well back from the muzzle and, if anything, it feels muzzle light when on aim. BSA are obviously aware of this lightness because a muzzle weight is fitted — although I think it could have been a good bit heavier still. This fact was borne out in my subsequent tests, with the muzzle flip producing a vertical stringing of shots on the target.

Even combining our powers of reasoning, Arthur and I were unsure at first

how to load the rifle without needing a third hand. Removing the magazine in order to load it requires the sidelever to be cocked and open — hence the need for the anti-beartrap device which BSA call an 'interruptor'. This removes a loading ram which, when the sidelever is closed, passes straight through whichever magazine chamber is aligned with the barrel.

Second, the centre spindle of the magazine — adjacent to the barrel — is withdrawn. This has two click-stop positions, but moving from one to the other is impossible until the sidelever has been cocked first. Once this has been done, the magazine may be withdrawn from its position with minimal resistance from a detent catch, necessary for the positive alignment of the barrel with each chamber in turn.

The magazine itself is somewhat unusual. It is made from plastic and has nine chambers — but why not ten? Pellets are inserted from the rear, and are held in place by two circular 'O' rings, which sit in a groove around the circumference of the magazine. In this way, the pellets are held firmly in place without suffering any damage. Deformity is impossible and so accuracy cannot be affected.

Pellet Problems

Straightaway let me say that I think the groove in which the 'O' rings lie should be deeper so that the pellets are gripped more firmly. While I experienced no problems with BSA Pylarms, some of the longer German pellets were held far from securely. This meant that some of the pellets rattled around within the magazine and indeed, one or two fell out when the magazine was inserted into the breech area. Should this escape your attention when loading the gun, then the consequences of pulling the trigger on an empty breech most certainly would not!

Re-installing the magazine is simply the reverse of the removal procedure, with the drum magazine having a notch cut into its perimeter at one point. I always loaded the magazine with this notch pointing vertically upwards, as it ensured that the drum was

The woodwork and metalwork finish of the VS2000 are excellent.



always rotated in the same direction from shot-to-shot. It was easy to spot when you had emptied the magazine as the notch returned to its vertical position.

The rifle is cocked between shots and, before closing the sidelever, the magazine must be rotated one position to present a loaded chamber to the breech. As the sidelever is closed, a hollow ram — through which the air passes when the gun is fired — pushes the pellet into the breech. It is a neat, effective and dependable system, although a little fiddly at first until you are used to it.

Apart from being innovative, the VS2000 is an exceptionally handsome rifle. Its Monte Carlo German stock is made from beech and has been stained a most pleasant dark brown before being given a semi-oil finish in just the same way as the BSA Mercury Challenger. Some people may find it a little 'cheap' looking, but I like it and hope that BSA stick with it. For those who want the ultimate in luxury, I believe that a walnut stocked version will be available shortly. The woodwork was functional, comfortable and looked good, which is rare. If anything I found the stock slightly short but that is probably down to my long arms as no one else complained!

Chequering is confined to the pistol grip. The fore-end is deep and sturdy, giving sufficient grip without need for further embellishment. Those of us with long fingers may find that the sidelever gets in the way, but it is only a minor irritation. Any shooter who said that he couldn't live with it would be being over-critical.

If the woodwork is good then the metalwork is excellent. I know that I have used the term 'mirror finish' when reviewing rifles in the past, but it has never been more richly deserved than by the VS2000. The preparation of the surface of the metal prior to blueing must be exceptional and the only way that you could fully appreciate it is by examining it for yourself. Rust will have a hard time getting a foothold on this gun!

Trigger Thoughts

BSA have taken the opportunity of a new model to introduce a new trigger. Considerable thought has gone into the design and it is certainly better than their previous example, which itself wasn't bad. The new trigger was described to me as similar to a Weihrauch Rekord unit, but with the components laid out horizontally rather than vertically. All trigger parts are at least 1/4 inch thick and very well made.

What is truly remarkable is that for the first time to my knowledge, a major manufacturer has deliberately produced a trigger that will only deliver its full potential when it has been tuned by one of the

specialist tuning firms. When this tuning has been carried out the result should really be worth examining.

I'm not saying that the trigger isn't good to begin with, as it is fully adjustable and gives a very crisp let-off point with no drag or creep. The wide blade is serrated and made from metal, giving a very positive feel when shooting. Somehow the quality is evident even without being able to see inside the mechanism. All in all, a very good first attempt.

What I find very difficult to enthuse about are the sights. The standard BSA reversible post/bead foresight is fitted but the element is now made from metal, not plastic. This is fine but it is the rearsight that I am less than happy with. A Williams square 'U' notch model is fitted to the front of the Maxgrip scope rail, but what I find strange is the lack of any graduations to calibrate elevation. They are provided for windage, but not elevation. I raised this matter with BSA and they said that they expected shooters to calibrate it themselves for their favourite pellet and mark the positions on the side of the ramp with an engineer's punch! Maybe some will, but I think most shooters will fit a scope rather than go to such lengths.

If BSA expect tuning firms to 'breathe' on the trigger, then I think that they must be thinking along similar lines with the action. In its basic form it gives the impression of being just that — basic! Considerable vibration is perceivable through the trigger and the woodwork after the firing stroke is complete. There is no reason for this as it should be possible to eliminate it — and it's a point that BSA should rectify quickly.

Taking the rifle as a whole, I must say that it is a good try. One or two points such as the sights and the spring noise irritated me, but may not concern everyone.

What I am less sure of is its intended market. It is unlikely to be of interest to the serious field shooter as it offers no significant benefits. He rarely needs a back-up shot in less time than it takes to load a conventional rifle. If he does then it means that his first shot was not a good one. Of course the VS2000 is a perfectly acceptable field rifle — it simply does not excel at it. It would make a useful rifle for field target shooting where speed loading sometimes matters. If that is the case, why have BSA fitted a nine shot magazine? Most speed shoots consist of at least ten shots and the time taken to load a new magazine negates any benefit obtained between shots, even if you keep a precharged spare in your pocket.

The rifle itself is an excellent example of what British workmanship can still produce and it deserves to sell well. I wish BSA luck with it.



Removing the magazine in order to load it requires the sidelever to be cocked and open.

AIR YOUR VIEWS



Belstaff

Letter Of The Month

Belstaff International have made quite a name for themselves in recent years with their tremendous range of outdoor clothing. The good news for *Airgun World* readers — or perhaps we should say writers — is that they will be awarding one of their superb waxproof coats every month to the letter which we decide is our *Letter Of The Month*. It may be amusing, thoughtful or informative — so get writing.

AN IDIOTIC PROPOSAL

As a visitor to Britain from America, I read the Editor's comment in the May issue of *Airgun World* with great interest. It became apparent to me that American shooters are not the only ones in the world to be plagued by ignorant, misinformed, or just downright stupid anti-shooting elements.

I was not fortunate enough to see the BBC newscast you mentioned, but I can well imagine the manner in which it was presented. Standard procedure seems to be an attempt to create the maximum amount of public alarm by using a minimum of fact and a lot of omission.

Until I read the May issue of *Airgun World* I had not heard of the Saxby & Palmer system, nor of the Lee Enfield conversion which seems to be the main area of concern. Personally, I think that this conversion is an outstanding idea. It presents an economical and considerably safer opportunity for teaching the proper handling of 'real' firearms to the novice sportsman for one thing, and provides groups such as the Cadet Corps with a much less expensive, yet realistic, drill and training weapon.

The proposal that it be used as a means of 'taking out' terrorists on board aircraft is nothing short of ludicrous. Although I'm certain that this would be possible, it would also be an extremely stupid thing to do. At the 12 ft lbs energy limit, you would almost certainly have to aim for a vital organ in order to stop the terrorist totally. This is extremely difficult to do in cramped quarters during the 'heat of the battle'.

The 'fact' that this could be accomplished without puncturing the skin of the aircraft reveals extreme shortsightedness on someone's part as well. Would the terrorist be unarmed? I rather doubt it! Not only will he be armed, but he will be armed with something substantially more powerful than an air rifle. You can be sure that his retaliatory fire will be quite capable of puncturing the fuselage of the aircraft — and anything it should happen to encounter en route! How could anyone present such an idiotic proposal? Yet, there are those who saw the newscast who will take it as Gospel truth.

As I mentioned previously, we Americans have been trying to cope with this problem for a very long time. It remains

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE EDITOR,
AIRGUN WORLD,
10 SHEET STREET,
WINDSOR,
BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG.

just as frustrating as ever. We can only continue our efforts, as you must also do, if we are ever to succeed.

Dan Briggs,
Watford, Herts.

FRIEND OR FOE? . . . 1

I was most interested to read Tom Downes' article *Friend or Foe?* in the May issue of *Airgun World*, and it came as no surprise to me that Mr Booty of the RSPCA would like to see airguns and crossbows licensed. What did surprise me, though, is why he was not asked how, by making them harder to obtain, hooligans could be prevented from misusing them. Making it harder to own a pistol than a shotgun has not prevented criminals using pistols more frequently than shotguns in armed robbery, and that in spite of there being a mandatory security requirement for the storage of pistols, and 30 times fewer pistols than shotguns legally owned.

It was not ascertained how many of the countless creatures allegedly maltreated by airgunners were shot without the landowner's permission. Armed trespass is a serious criminal offence, carrying heavy penalties. If it is the case that these crimes of cruelty have gone unpunished because the culprits were not apprehended by the police, rather than because we lack legislation, will it really be any easier to catch criminals red-handed if the weapons they use are licensed? It is worth bearing in mind that criminals are, by definition, people without respect for the law and that in consequence the only people who respect the law, as opposed to the ability of the police to enforce it, are the law-abiding. Licensing these weapons will merely inconvenience us — only law enforcement will bring vandals to justice, and there are already laws which allow for the prosecution of these people.

I am not in the least surprised that the RSPCA is in favour of compulsory hunting tests in addition to the above, and I am not surprised that it finds the schemes used in Germany and Holland highly attractive. I am even less surprised that Mr Booty failed to add that these tests include written examinations on the identification of plant species and other irrelevant information in addition to the identification of quarry and protected species, plus the shooting proficiency test.

What surprises me least of all, however, is that Tom Downes was not told that in both countries the cost of taking the test is about £500, with the result that Holland now has a fraction of the hunters it had prior to the introduction of the test. That reduction is, of course, the RSPCA's true aim and very wise it is to conceal it when out scrounging for money and moral support from the shooting community.

The effectiveness of these tests is something else. I would dearly like access

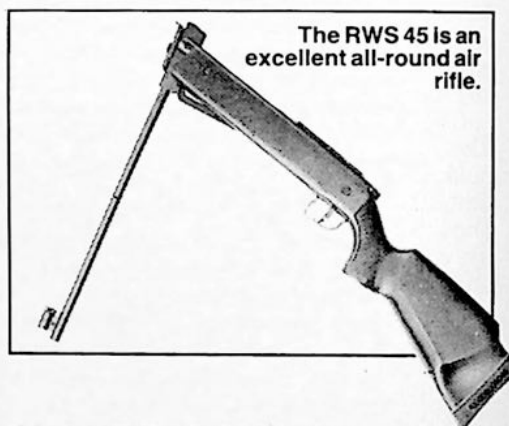
to the European source which supposedly provides the justification for implying that hunting tests reduce the rate of shooting accidents, and the incidence of maiming quarry and the shooting of protected species.

I asked my MEP — identity of MEPs is available from libraries — a series of questions in February, among them being this very matter of the efficiency of hunting tests. Two months later I have still heard nothing. I presume therefore that either the information does not exist, that it is an RSPCA secret or that my MEP is grossly inefficient. Incidentally, I do believe that Germany has one-tenth the number of licensed hunters as Britain, and twice as many shooting accidents per year.

It seems from the RSPCA policy of opposition to the use of airguns and crossbows on wildlife that it believes it is fair and reasonable to ban a sport because a fraction of its participants either can't shoot or are fundamentally malicious.

Tom Downes concluded that the RSPCA wasn't really 'high and mighty' in its attitude towards the shooting community, and that both it and Mr Booty have an honourable aim in life. No doubt he is right, but nonetheless when the nice lady from the RSPCA calls with her collection box I will not, most regrettably, be making a donation. I'm saving towards the cost of my hunting test.

Duncan Cadd,
Durham.



The RWS 45 is an excellent all-round air rifle.

VALUE FOR MONEY

I recently bought what must be the best value for money air rifle on the market — an RWS Diana 45. For just £80 I have an air rifle that is very powerful, consistent and its accuracy is outstanding. It also has an excellent two-stage trigger and a high quality finish.

I cannot understand why the RWS 45 is not more popular, as it really is an excellent all-round air rifle.

S. Davidson,
Walkden, Lancs.

THANK YOU

Through *Airgun World* I would like to thank M.A. Grinnall of Clay Farm, Clows Top, near Kidderminster for his kind help and hospitality, after my car broke down when my friends and I attended his field target shoot on March 16th.

J. Thomas.
Bridgend FTS, Glamorgan.

THINK YOURSELF LUCKY

After reading the letter in the May issue from 'Hunter' in Northern Ireland, I feel I must comment.

I live in Lisburn, Co. Antrim and when my father applied for an airgun licence at the local police station he was told by the officer that it was hardly worth the bother as very few licences were granted to people living in the town. Nevertheless he applied and received the licence a few months later. This cost £21, not £33 as stated in the May issue, even if the person does not own a shotgun certificate.

Shooters on mainland Britain are extremely lucky and can wear camo clothing, balaclavas etc. It would be extremely dangerous to do this in parts of Northern Ireland as you could easily be mistaken for a terrorist. Also, as most of the best areas for hunting rabbits are along the border with the Irish Republic, which is patrolled by both the army and police, it can be difficult to stalk rabbits.

Another problem in Northern Ireland is that you are allowed only 500 pellets at a time. This obviously stops any discount on bulk orders and also stops the gun owner from possessing more than one type of ammunition at a time. And as for the ban on Nato bullets, I can see no justification for this.

So for people living on the mainland I advise you to do your very best to stop any further attempts to restrict air rifle ownership, and indeed any other weapons. The authorities in this country would ban all types of weapons, including airguns and crossbows, if they were given half a chance.

David Patton,
Lisburn, Co. Antrim.

FRIEND OR FOE? . . . 2

I feel I must comment on Tom Downes' article *Friend or Foe?* in the May issue. Colin Booty of the RSPCA was talking as if all airgunners are 'cowboys' with no respect for wildlife. I use my air rifle for back garden plinking only and do not agree with shooting birds.

I am quite sure many other plinkers agree with me that we do not need a licence for low powered air rifles. Don't we have enough legal rules and regulations for our sport?

S. Anderson,
Stockport, Cheshire.

PACKINGTON PRAISE . . . 1

I feel I must write to say how much I enjoyed the Airgun Fair at Packington Park on April 19th. The field target shoot was very well organised and I would like to thank the BASC, *Airgun World* and the Stourvale Woodsmen for such competent work.

I must also congratulate the organisers of the whole event because it was a great day out. The number of trade stands, as well as the number of people present, surprised me very much. I attended the same shoot last year when there were a few problems, but I am happy to say I could find no faults this time.

P. Burgess,
Countryman AC,
Manchester.



Our thanks to everyone who made Packington a great success.

PACKINGTON PRAISE . . . 2

Our club, Rivington Riflemen, organised a mini-bus so we could attend the Airgun Fair at Packington Park recently — and what a great day out it was for everyone! We spent most of the day checking out new developments in the airgun world and meeting many dealers.

I spent a few hours talking with many of the stand holders, including the people I call my suppliers, Target Sports of Bolton. I found both Nigel and Eddie very helpful, as they have been in the past.

I would also like to thank Steve Mortimer from Optima for his help and advice. I have now treated myself to a new Super Moonlighter 3-9 x 56 scope which I am very pleased with.

It was great to hear that *Airgun World* raised over £300 for charity, and I am happy to say that I was part of it. I ended up buying a pocket pen knife, pocket book on airgunning and three — yes, three! — camouflage wallets, one of which I have given to our club as a raffle prize.

I really cannot praise *Airgun World* enough, not only for such a great magazine but also for a marvellous set-up at Packington Park. There really were not enough hours in the day on April 19th for everything to be seen and tried.

Ian, Dave, Mel, Melanie,
Paul, Peter, Cliff, Steve and the
junior members,
Rivington Riflemen, Blackburn.

PACKINGTON PRAISE . . . 3

My committee join me in thanking *Airgun World* for organising and conducting the auction at the Airgun Fair at Packington on April 19th, the result of which was the sum of £324.50 raised for the Gun & Allied Trades Benevolent Society. We also thank the stand holders, who most generously donated items for the auction.

Eric Nellist,
Gun & Allied Trades
Benevolent Society.

FRIEND OR FOE? . . . 3

Referring to the article *Friend or Foe?* by Tom Downes in the May issue, I personally believe the comments made in *Guns Review* to be an accurate assessment of the situation, despite Mr Booty's replies to Mr Downes. We must recognise the RSPCA's attitude for what it is — an absolute 'anti' as regards the ownership, responsible or otherwise, of air weapons or crossbows. They are now aligning themselves with other 'anti' bodies proliferating throughout the country who would wish to impose their ideas about licensing and restrictions on use and ownership. Indeed, they may represent the greatest threat of all to responsible shooters.

Their type of emotive irresponsibility must be faced up to directly — now. Of course *Airgun World* has promoted the safe, responsible and humane use of air weapons for years, but if Mr Booty and his ilk have their way you won't be able to shoot anywhere.

Ignore the obtuse replies given by the RSPCA and tell them 'hands off'. The present legislation, properly enforced, is more than sufficient to deal with mindless 'cowboys' who break the law.

I for one will not be continuing to support the RSPCA until they get around to taking a common sense attitude to 'responsible shooters', although I regretfully suspect that they do not recognise the term, nor do they wish to!

H.W. Jones.
London NW2.



Packington proved to be a little tiring for some of our visitors!

ANY QUESTIONS

THE RIGHT RANGE

I recently bought a .22 BSA Airsporter 'S' air rifle. Being fairly new to the sport of airgunning, could you tell me whether my rifle is capable of despatching rabbits and crows, and if so at what range?

Brian Morrow,
Benburb, Co. Tyrone.

The Airsporter 'S' is certainly capable of use on live quarry. Assuming that the weapon is performing correctly, it should be producing power close to the legal limit and as such would provide clean kills on, say, rabbits at whatever range you can achieve head shots.

A very skilled shot could attempt such shots at 35-40 yards, but a novice would be well advised to restrict himself to 15-20 yards until skill and confidence improves.

EXCESSIVE DROOP

Just over a year ago I bought a Weihrauch HW35E air rifle, which was excellent in every respect being both powerful and accurate. After about six months I completely stripped the rifle, following strict instructions, and then re-assembled it.

I then discovered that the rifle was suffering from barrel droop which, when measured, was at least one inch from the breech to muzzle. I checked the barrel lock, which was in order, and when I fitted an Optima Moonlighter scope the rifle shot 3 feet low at 20 yards! Do you think I have re-assembled the rifle incorrectly?

Andrew Kemp,
East Leake, Leics.

While it is perfectly normal for the Weihrauch HW35 range of air weapons to have a considerable degree of barrel droop, the amount which yours seems to suffer from is indeed excessive. I have yet to see one inch of droop on any Weihrauch which has not suffered from some mishap. Certainly I would have the weapon checked by an expert as it sounds as though something is wrong somewhere.

Barrel droop is fairly common with the Weihrauch HW35 range of air rifles.



LEFT-HANDERS

I am a left-handed shooter looking for an air rifle costing between £60-£80. I have already owned a BSA Mercury and fear the Weihrauch HW35 may be too long and heavy for me as I am only just 13 years old.

Could you suggest a suitable air rifle for me and could a company fit a left-handed stock to a standard model?

Richard Palmer,
Newark, Notts.

In your price range I would suggest that instead of insisting on a weapon which is left-handed, you opt for a weapon which is neither left- nor right-handed — ie, one that does not have a cheekpiece or a palm swell on either side. Weapons of this type which you may care to examine are the Webley Victor, Original 34, Original 45, Weihrauch HW45 and Beeman C1 Carbine.

Even weapons which do have a cheekpiece, such as the Webley Vulcan and the BSA Mercury, should not be excluded from your list as they may be used comfortably by left-handed shooters.

ORIGINAL QUALITY

I own an Original Model 27 air rifle, but ever since I started shooting and reading *Airgun World* I've never seen my air rifle in any kind of advertisement. Is this because the Original 27 is a middle-of-the-range rifle? Also, could you give me some idea of the rifle's power?

A. Hollyman,
Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan.

At this point in time the whole of the Original range does not seem to be enjoying too much popularity, which is a pity as they are quality weapons and reasonably priced. As you suspect, the Model 27 is not top-of-the-range and as such tends to be mentioned somewhat less.

A good quality Model 27 should produce around 8 ft lbs. It has an excellent trigger and the quality of manufacture throughout is of a high standard.

Send your airgun queries to:
JOHN STEVENS,
AIRGUN WORLD,
10 SHEET STREET,
WINDSOR,
BERKSHIRE SL4 1BG

John Stevens and Airgun World regret that it is not possible to answer every single question received. However, we shall publish answers or send personal replies to as many readers as we can, especially if you enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

THERE'S MORE TO IT

I've been airgunning for about four years now, during which time I have used many different airguns. Now I've recently bought a brand new Weihrauch HW77 with a Kassnar 4 x 40 WA scope and one-piece mount, which I will use with RWS Superpoint pellets.

As soon as I bought the rifle I chronographed it and got a constant reading of 11.78 ft lbs energy. I sighted the scope for 25 yards and kept practising until I could hit a 1 1/4 inch circle at 43 yards, learning roughly the right amount of windage and holdover at various distances.

Do you think I will be able to kill the normal airgunner's quarry at that distance and is this particular rifle suitable?

N. Short,
Alford, Lincs.

The Weihrauch HW77 is certainly suited to your purposes and in fact it would be difficult — some might say impossible — to think of a better rifle. You also have an excellent telescopic sight and you seem to have taken the correct steps in familiarising yourself with your weapon's performance at different ranges.

The accuracy claims which you make — 1 1/4 inch groups at 40 yards-plus — are quite amazing. It certainly would seem on paper that you are capable of humanely despatching live quarry, but there's a lot more to it than that, isn't there?

WELL SUITED

I am nearly 14 years old and shortly hope to buy a Weihrauch HW35E in .22 calibre, with a Kassnar 4 x 32 Vistascope. Could you recommend a suitable mount for this combination for under £10?

Also, do you think my rifle and scope combination are suitable to shoot vermin and field targets?

Roger Foster,
Winscombe, Avon.

By all means go ahead and buy your .22 calibre Weihrauch HW35 Export. If you use a Sports Match T04 two-piece scope mounting system you should find no problems with the Kassnar Vistascope which you intend to fit. The T04 mounts cost around £8.

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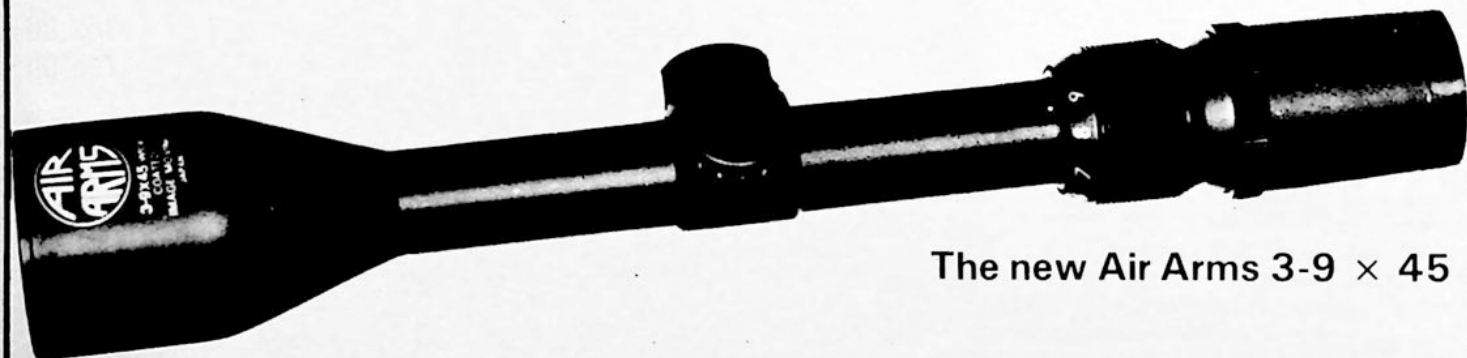


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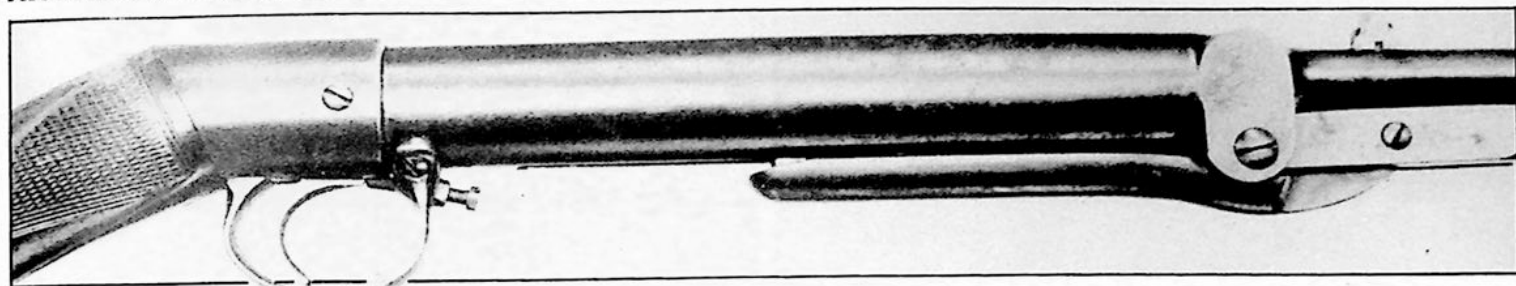
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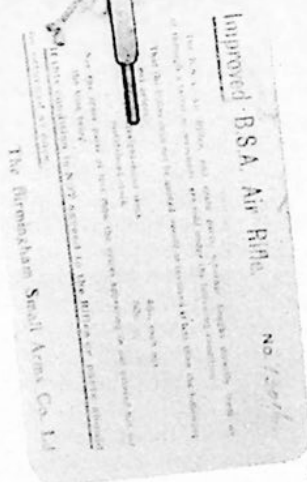
AIR ARMS, Hailsham Industrial Park, Diplocks Way, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JF.



The BSA tap loading, lever cocking rifle of 1907.

Collector's corner

by Geoffrey Boothroyd



LAST MONTH produced a larger crop of readers' letters than ever before. Some were concerned with the identification of old airguns, but the majority discussed the overall philosophy of collecting — particularly air weapons, of course.

Perhaps I should insert here a plea for the gentleman who wrote to me about BSA air rifle literature. Could he write to me again since his letter was not signed and there was no address — only a phone number, which produces no response.

One other comment from readers was my apparent preoccupation with BSA and Webley air rifles. The reason for this is simple — there is more material available on these makes and both companies have been making air weapons for many years. Also, there are many areas of interest which have not been fully explored regarding patterns of production and the models which have been made over the years. Loss of factory records makes it impossible to produce any results from original source material, so we are left with the guns themselves, original literature which has survived, and contemporary comment from advertisements and articles in magazines.

This, then, of course, leads us onto another question: 'What is collectable?'

Let's take the two extremes. The first is that you collect only 'antiques', but then we have to ask the question, 'What is an antique?'

The easy answer could be, 'Something that is over 100 years old', but if we adopt this definition and restrict our collecting to airguns made over 100 years ago, most of us would have to give up our hobby, interest, obsession or whatever!

Fortunately, although we can retain the

'antique' definition we most certainly do not have to restrict our collecting to 100-year-old airguns. In fact, similar problems have arisen in other collecting fields, giving rise to such definitions as 'veteran' and 'vintage'.

To many this somewhat scholarly approach to collecting is inappropriate as far as airguns are concerned, but it still leaves us with the question, 'What is regarded as collectable?' The short answer here is, of course, 'Anything you want to collect!'

Taken to the extreme you could, with enough money, make a collection of all the current BSA or Webley airguns. These could be put to one side, complete with boxes, factory literature, receipts, current sales literature and magazine reviews and stored for, say, 25 years. What would the collector of the future give to acquire such 'mint' specimens? Think of today, and the value of a 'mint', boxed air pistol complete with instructions and all accessories and what this fetches in the collector's market place, compared with the more commonly found, well used, slightly rusty and somewhat shaky 'collectable' airgun.

Unlike most other collecting activities, airgun collectors do not have a specialist club or society which caters for their interests.



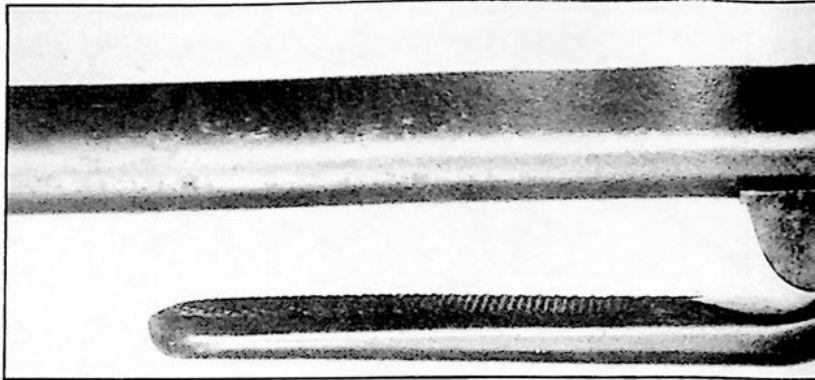
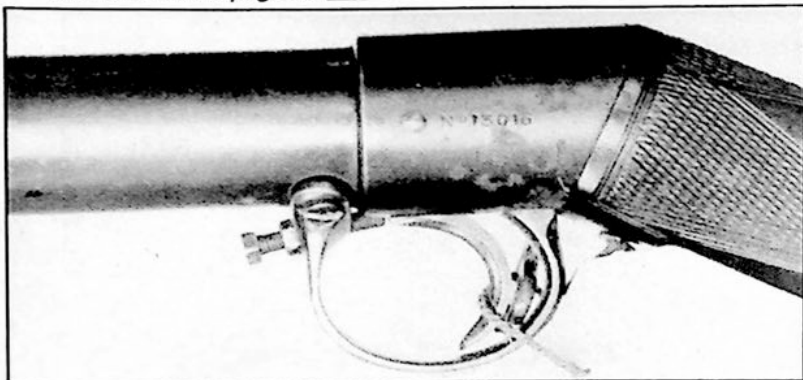
The military style Haenel rifle.

Many such societies and clubs have a relatively short life since their existence depends largely on the work of a few very dedicated club officials putting in a lot of unpaid time and effort. If some of the work of running a club could be passed on to someone else this might allow the club officials to devote their time to activities promoting interest to keep the club alive and functioning properly.

On a similar line, but going back by over 60 years, T. Reece very kindly sent me some clippings from magazines published in 1920. One of these is reproduced and as you can see, it describes the activities of the Sharpshooters' League.

In an article in the same paper Captain Ernest H. Robinson gave members of the League advice on how to make a rifle range. Details of the room required — 'Schoolroom, institute hall, old barn or any room to give 10 yards range' — were advised and then the reader was told how to make target holders and bullet catchers. If you were keen enough to want to shoot at night, 'an acetylene bicycle lamp will illuminate the target splendidly'. I don't

continued on page 56



Left: Note the trigger adjusting screw and lock nut. Right: The end of the cocking lever with the chequered top surface.

know how long the League lasted, but perhaps the more senior of our readers could tell us more about it.

Mr Reece also thought we might obtain access to the records of some old and interesting air weapons. I don't know whether or not this will happen, but I am most grateful to him for taking the trouble to write.

Last month we discussed the early tap loading air rifles of Lincoln Jeffries and BSA with the aid of the patent drawings. Now we can examine a lever cocking, tap loading air rifle in close-up to show how the patented ideas were translated into wood and metal.

To illustrate some of the points I have chosen a BSA Improved model no. 13016, which dates from 1907. I photographed this in close-up so that you can see that it was fitted with what BSA called a 'straight-hand stock'. You can also see that this rifle has the factory 'ticket' attached to it, with the

rifle number written on in ink.

Of considerable importance is the BSA air rifle spanner which was given away with each rifle sold. As you can see, it was attached to the rifle by means of the string which held the ticket. I would imagine there are few of these spanners left, since they could have been used for other things besides air rifles. Once detached from the rifle their original function and association would be lost, but you can see what the little spanner looks like. Should you encounter one in a junk box you will know to seize it at once!

The ticket tells us two other things — that the price of this rifle before World War I was 45/- (£2.25), and with the alternative 'pistol-hand stock' it was 5/- dearer at 50/- (£2.50). The spanner mentioned earlier was for the trigger adjustment lock nut. The rest of the ticket was concerned with the maintenance

of the prices, not only for the rifle but also for spares. If the vendor did not agree to sell for the prices quoted he was advised to return the goods to BSA!

If we start at the muzzle end of the rifle we come to the cocking lever. This was a substantial affair with what some collectors call a 'spade' or 'spoon' end. The upper surface was chequered to provide a firm grip when cocking.

Moving rearward we then come to the loading port and the 'tap'. On this rifle you can clearly see where the pellet has to go since it states quite clearly 'load'. Then moving rearward again you can see the trigger assembly in close-up, the adjusting screw and lock nut and the location of the serial number. Last is the well preserved BSA 'Piled Arms' trademark impressed into the left-hand side of the stock. You can also see that the 'arms' are, in fact, Martini



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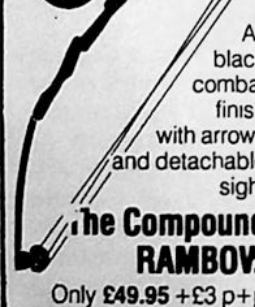
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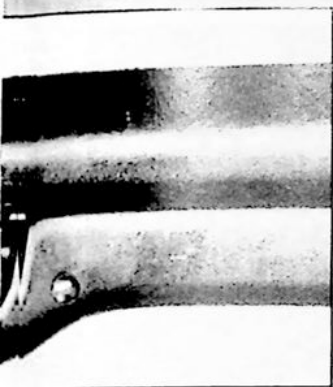
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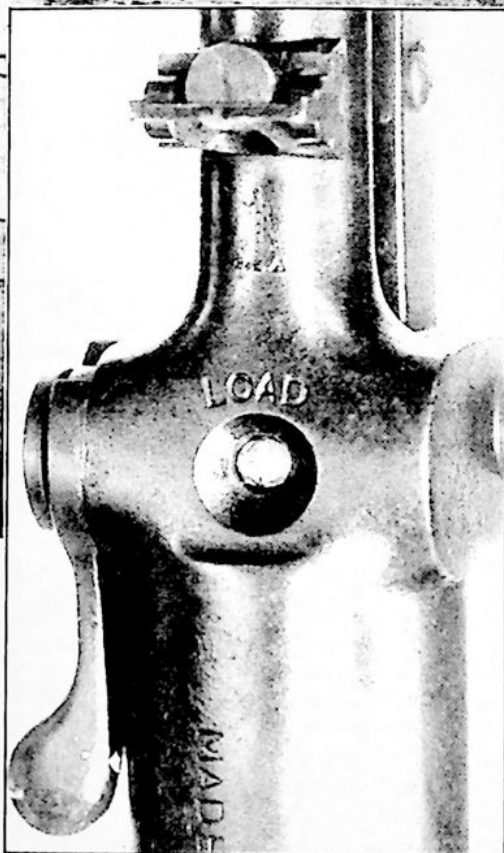
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The BSA trade mark impressed into the stock of a 1907 BSA.

TRADE MARK



The loading port and rearsight on the BSA.

Henry rifles, not Lee Metfords or Lee Enfields as you might imagine!

I have to admit that even now I am still quite confused by the range and extent of the pre-World War II BSA air rifles. I have started to classify these, but I lack some illustrations and will have to delay matters until I have photographs of all the models.

My mention some time ago of the BSA Military Model and its illustration by means of the patent drawings brought a response from John Kirk, who asked about military versions of air rifles which have appeared in other countries. Well John, I don't have an actual example, but I can show you what the pre-war Haenel bolt action rifle looked like in its military full stocked style with upper hand guard.

Another reader, Mr Plotkin, has been waiting patiently for information from me which, as yet, I have been unable to

provide. Can anyone tell us at what serial number the Lincoln Jeffries stock stamp — registered trademark — was discontinued on BSA produced Lincoln Jeffries air rifles? Mr Plotkin's rifle has this stock mark and is serial number 428.

The 1909 BSA catalogue advertises Standard, Club, Light and Junior rifles, as well as the Military pattern Long and Short rifles, all in .177 calibre. Since both Standard and Club patterns are described in .177, Mr Plotkin asks how this can be, as he thought the difference between the two models was that one is in .177 and the other in .22 calibre. Last, he asks if anyone has a BSA catalogue from this period which advertises the .25 calibre rifle?

Now to return to the subject of an Airgun Collectors' Club. You could have the club arranged for junior — under 16 years of age — and senior members, with a club badge, a monthly newsletter and eventually specialist publications and events. What do readers think about the idea, and what facilities and services would you expect such a club, devoted exclusively to the needs of the airgun collector, to provide for you? Do let me have your ideas on this please.

Acknowledgements: I must thank Tony Dickinson of Galloway Guns & Tackle, Newton Stewart for the loan of his BSA and for his hospitality and time during the photo-session.

Below: Have any of the original Sharpshooters badges survived?

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(Affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs)

"For King and Country"

Head-quarters:

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The Badge of the League

There is no subscription to the head-quarters of the League. The only charge is for a badge, which it is hoped every member will wear.

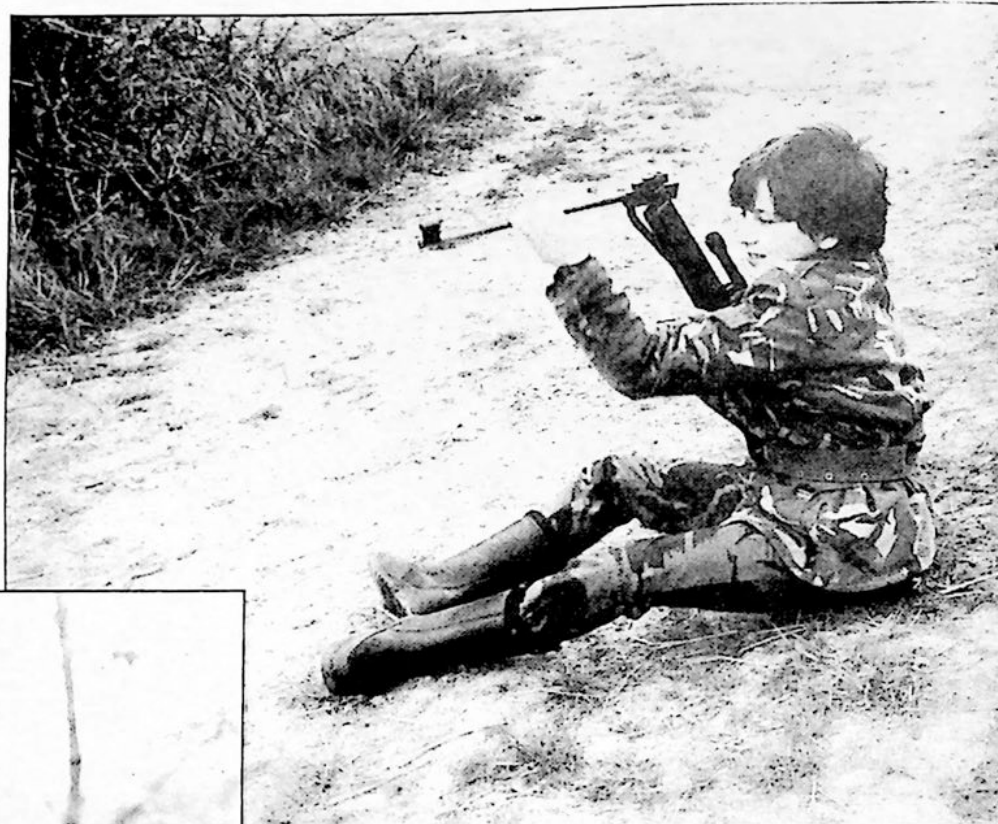
The prices of the badges are as follow: Sharpshooter's badge, 9d. post free (half a dozen 4s. 3d. post free, one dozen 8s. 4d. post free); sharpshooter captain's badge, 2s. post free; senior officer's badge, 2s. 3d. post free.

The Official Organ

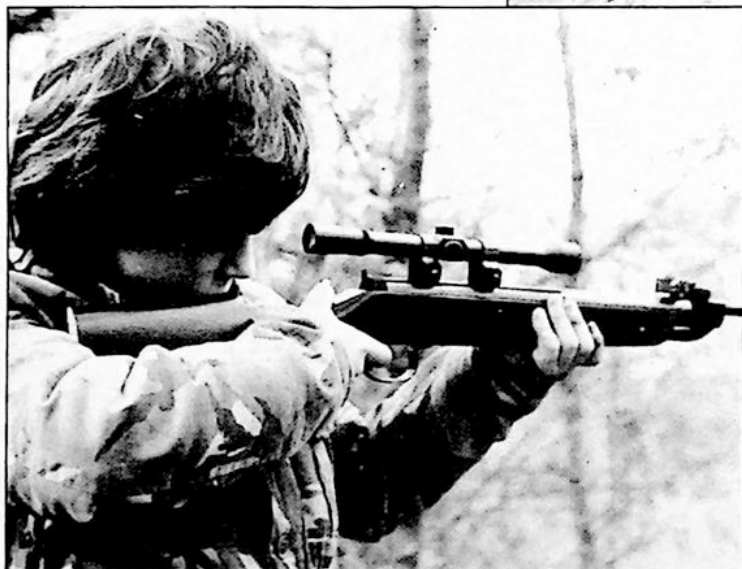
The official organ of the League is *CMS*. Full particulars of the League can be obtained from the Hon. Organising Secretary, 2 La Belle Sauvage, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4.

Just for junior!

Bob Costin starts a new series as a youngster takes up shooting



Above: The Webley Air Wolf is an ideal first-time air rifle.



Left: A Tasco 4 x 20 scope completed Pheon's basic kit.

WHEN I WAS a youngster I was fortunate enough to have an understanding Mum who put up with my transition from catapults to airguns — despite the occasional mishap! — with an enthusiasm for my improving marksmanship which I had always rather hoped I would hear from my Dad.

Unfortunately, though, the head of our little family had a drink problem — actually he had no problem drinking at all — so it was generally my mother who provided the much needed ten shilling note to complete my savings for a new Diana or Slavia, and who would dutifully accompany me to a suitably remote spot where I could plink to my heart's content.

My humble collection grew and changed, as one was bought, another swapped or another given for Christmas. How my heart leaped when I saw that unmistakable package among the presents! I was brought up in North London, in a block of flats where shooting opportunities were not so much few and far between as completely non-existent. So it was either close range shooting down the hallway into a box full of old newspapers for me — I learned early that pellets came back off hardwood, and that any wood backstop can be 'dodgy' — or a trip to the countryside.

There slow, heavy bumble-bees became enemy bombers, and a contented woodie

became an Apache signalling! But the bees and pigeon were quite safe, because despite the lethal potential of my much loved rifles I had absolutely no intention of killing anything except mythical enemies and it was always an unsuspecting 'Apache' pine cone or an 'enemy' dandelion that I finally attacked.

I do remember once having a grey squirrel squared off in my sights in my aunt's garden in Dorset when I was about 12, but at that time I could no more have pulled the trigger than flown! It was not until much later that hunting for real appealed strongly enough for me to turn to the sporting side of shooting with air weapons.

Even then my shooting was tempered by the memory of an 'execution squad' of older boys I once watched slaughter three woodies by firing volley after volley at the wounded and dying birds as they struggled in the sluggish waters of the river Lea, having been shot while feeding on the berries of a tree on the opposite bank. The range was too great for the shooters' ability to kill humanely, and in all probability their rifles were simply not powerful enough to do the job properly anyway. Whatever the reason it was an unpleasant but instructive experience.

Talking to a friend's son Pheon about shooting recently, I was reminded of my eagerness at his age — he is 12 years old

— and I was more than a little sympathetic to his problems in getting started. Coming from a one parent family and, like me, with no helpful father around to show him the ropes, he can only occasionally get to shoot with a friend's airgun. Safety measures seem to be at a minimum, though, and the boys have had little or no training in either safety or marksmanship — something I felt duty bound to correct at the soonest opportunity.

I had a quiet word with his mother to get approval, and she agreed to let him come along with me to a farm in Surrey for a course in safety, marksmanship, fieldcraft, and gun handling.

My own son, now nine years old, has been taught gun safety as a matter of course, but he is still too young to shoot without full supervision. By that I mean me overseeing every step of the shooting sequence, from loading to putting his rifle down after he has finished shooting. The rifle stays pointed safely down range at all times and is proven unloaded before being handed back to me for safe keeping.

He is quite accurate with his rifle and has the makings of a dedicated hunter too, retrieving like a two-legged labrador when he comes out with me! He will not be doing any shooting at live quarry until he is older, however, and strong enough to cock a powerful enough rifle to kill cleanly — and even then only when he is 'humanely' accurate!

Having made the necessary arrangements for Pheon with the farmer on whose land we would shoot, I went round to tell Pheon the good news. Once his initial excitement had died down, we checked out what suitable shooting clothes he had. A Nato pattern Kammo jacket solved the first problem, keeping him warm and camouflaged at the same time! Alas, his

drab olive trousers and wellie boots were outgrown but, just as with my own experiences, Mum came to the rescue with a pair of warm Derri Boots and cash for new legwear.

The next stage was to ensure that Pheon gained a proper respect for air weapons generally. I had learned the hard way, ducking ricocheting pellets and seeing a few too many wounds sported by some of the lads at my school. Fortunately for me the only personal injury I have ever sustained was when I was loading an all metal Diana .177. The sear disengaged with the barrel at full cock and drove the bead foresight straight into my left hand! The pain was soon gone, but the memory lingers on!

I talked Pheon through the basic safety procedures first, explaining each rule with an example. I have found before when teaching youngsters that a list of don'ts is not always enough. You should give a vivid image of what might result if they ignore the don'ts and you'll find that the rules are better committed to memory.

Have you ever been introduced to a whole bunch of people and then promptly forgotten all their names? Try giving each person the first mental image their name or appearance conjures up. You may surprise yourself at how many names you remember using this old technique, first practised by the Greeks thousands of years ago — if my memory serves me correctly.

The next step was to decide which outfit young Pheon should start with. A basic break barrel rifle, not too difficult to cock, yet



The basic safety procedures must always be explained to those new to the sport.

offering reasonable power and good accuracy seemed to be the order of the day — and there was the deciding factor of a budget to be considered, too!

Among the British manufactured rifles, Webley's Victor and BSA's Meteor seemed the most suitable, but in the end we decided

on Webley's Air Wolf fitted with a Tasco 4 x 20 scope. In .177 calibre this compact little rifle has reasonable punch with surprising accuracy — ideal for Pheon's training on targets, and powerful enough to shoot accurately at longer ranges when he was ready to move on.

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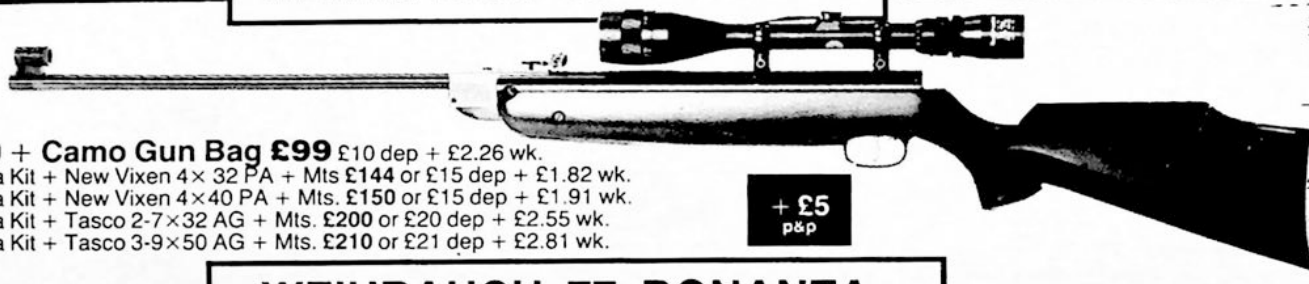
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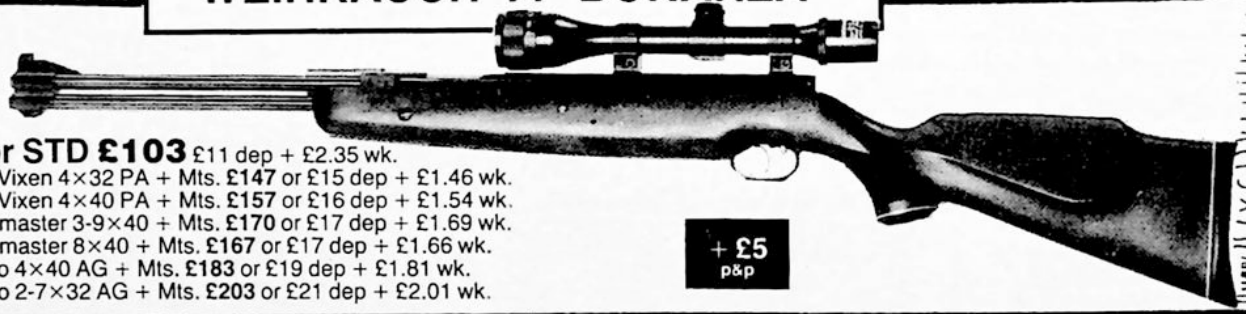
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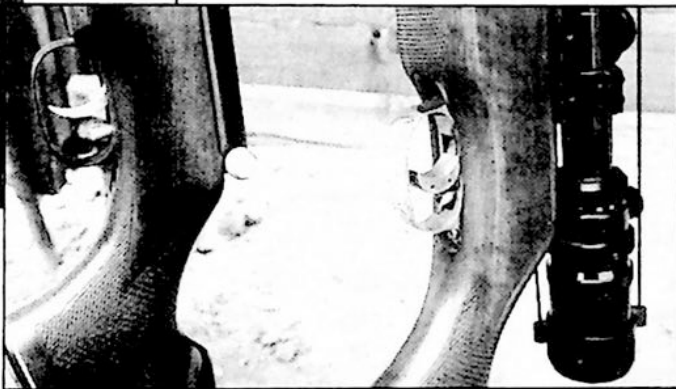
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Tom Downes looks at airgun gear offered by T.R. Robb

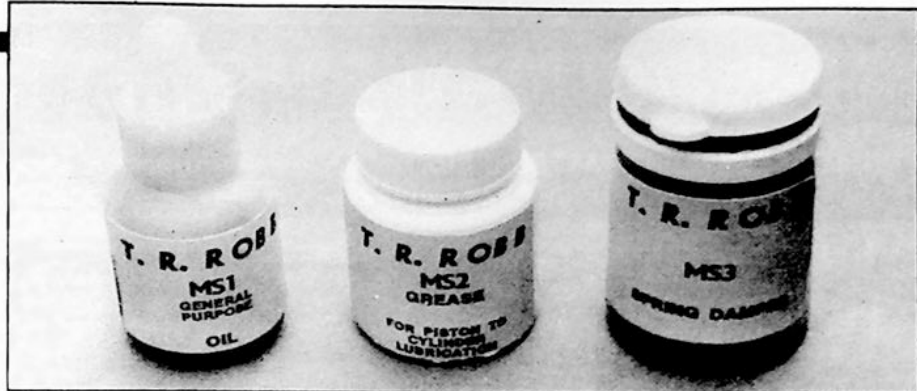


Terry Robb admits that he is an airgun 'nut'.

The universal trigger shoe gives a much improved feel.



Special Service



Terry Robb produces a range of specially formulated airgun greases and oils.

T.R. ROBB'S interest in airguns began in 1964, although guns in general have always been a major part of Terry's life. He used to work on and test machine guns for Sterling Armaments and although he has handled some of the deadliest weapons ever made, he admits he is an airgun 'nut'.

Basically Terry is a very good engineer. He is also one of the lucky few who has the sort of brain that can put ideas on paper and produce it in his workshop the same day! Long before today's 'super tuners' existed, Terry was making mundane airguns into superguns and many of Terry's ideas are used by modern day tuners.

I have been fitting Robb PTFE washers into airguns since 1979. At that time several firms were offering PTFE piston washers as, being self-lubricating and almost indestructible, this material seemed ideal.

Most PTFE washers proved a poor match for the leather washer, though, simply because the design was wrong. Robb washers, on the other hand, are shaped so they have exactly the right amount of 'feather' to expand properly on the forward piston stroke. Some are also reduced in thickness to allow greater swept volume with a subsequent increase in power.

The Robb formula didn't happen by chance, though, as it took two years of trial and error before the washers were considered good enough to sell.

With most airguns, simply fitting a Robb

PTFE washer will increase the power and reduce the recoil, but Terry has forged ahead much further than this. His new range of lubricants have been produced after many years of studying the unique lube requirements of airguns.

The MS1 oil, for example, will out-moly Moly or Teflon when introduced into an airgun chamber. This is not because it is more slippery, but because it has unique 'hot and cold' viscosity control which means that the gun will perform as well from cold as it will after the first 10 rounds when the temperature within the gun rises dramatically.

The MS2 grease mixes with MS1 oil in a controlled manner, so that the oil will not thin away the grease which is for piston/cylinder lubrication. A separate spring damping compound to eliminate 'twangy' springs — MS3 — can be added to the spring. This has the same properties in that it is compatible with the grease, but does a separate job. The end result is lubricants that work separately from each other, without turning into a sticky 'goo' that is so often the case.

Very little lubricant is required for effective metal-to-metal lubrication, but the great advantage of these lubricants is their 'speed'. The difference in the action of a gun lubricated with these MS lubes is immediately apparent — it is very smooth, but very fast. For those who require less power, more MS2 must be added or MS3 to

slow the action. Soon to be available is a special thinning oil for those who seek 'super power'! This oil is mixed with the other lubes and the action becomes so fast that it is almost unbelievable!

As Terry says, 'Caution must be exercised in just how far the amateur tuner goes in tuning his own guns. For example, if one of my silicon chrome springs is added, as well as the lubes and PTFE washer, even a mediocre gun can increase in power by as much as 50 per cent, which could place it in the firearms class. I recommend that the gun is tuned one stage at a time and then checked for power at each stage.'

'A stage 3 tune on an HW80, for example, using sized pellets can produce up to 25 ft lbs, which would require a Firearms Certificate. Not many people realise that simply re-sizing the pellets to fit the breech exactly can increase power dramatically and many of my patent pellet sizers go to the USA where there is no power restriction on air weapons. A little patient testing and pellet resizing can give an HW35 a power increase of as much as 4 or 5 ft lbs at the muzzle — and improve accuracy. Tuning the ammunition is a really worthwhile practice that many top field target shooters do. You can have a rifle with little recoil at the 12 ft lb limit that will knock out the bull every shot.'

'I am receiving more and more enquiries from field shooters who want the best on a budget, as not everyone can afford £300-£400 for a customised field target special. I ask them what they need and then I produce it.'

'The universal trigger shoe is made from solid brass and gives a much improved finger to trigger fit. You see them everywhere now, but initially I made the first one for a field shooter who has gone on to win many competitions. Likewise, I had another request for a better safety catch for Weihrauch rifles. The model I am producing now has a much larger face than the factory ones and can be released instantly without having to search for it, which is very important at crucial shoot-offs!'

T.R. Robb offers many services for individual customers, including reaming transfer ports, shortening and crowning barrels for those who wish they had bought a carbine, and many other engineering operations too numerous to mention. In my own experience money spent with Robb is never money wasted. He is a mine of airgun knowledge and although I always thought there could be no keener airgunner than I am, I think Terry takes the prize!

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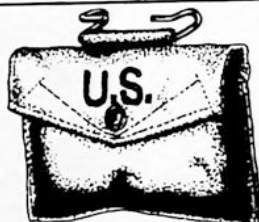
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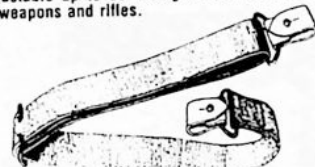


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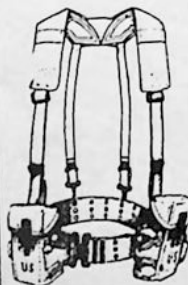
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continued on page 64



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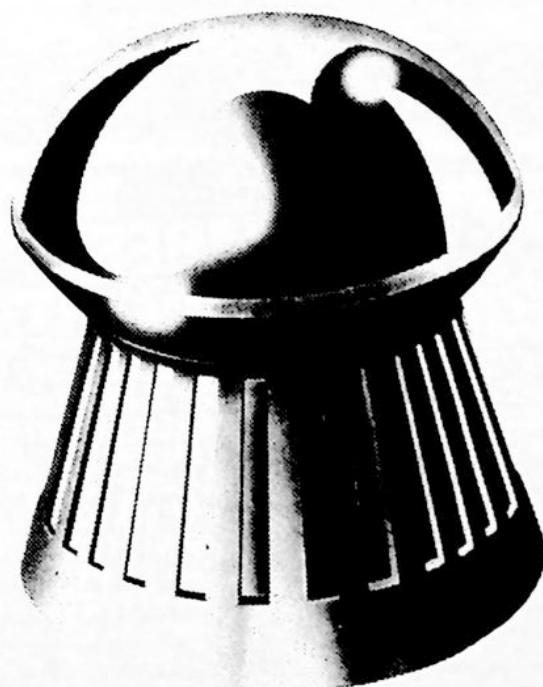
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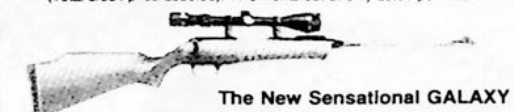
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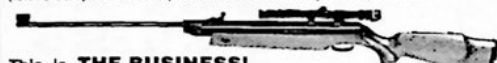
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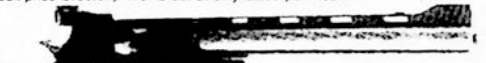
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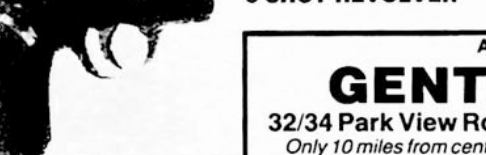


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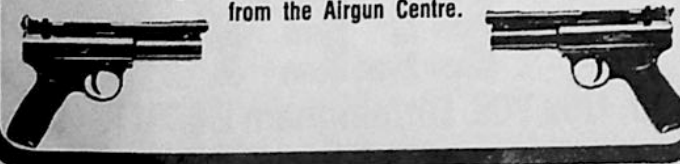
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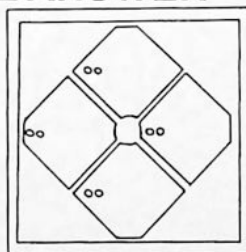
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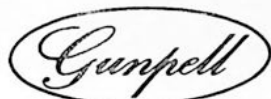
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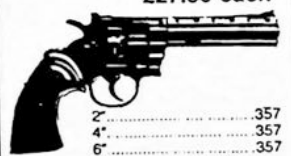
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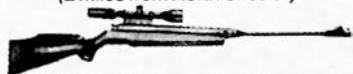
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ADVERTISERS INDEX

Air Logic..... 5	Gentry..... 70	Keens Tackle & Guns..... 71	Sharpshooters..... 62
Airmasters..... 42	Gunmark..... 26	Leisure Arms..... 73	Streatham Armoury..... 72
Airgun Centre..... 10-11	Gunsport..... 4, 66-67	Litts..... 53	Target Sport..... 6-7
Air Arms..... 54	Gun Counter..... 34	London Gun Co..... 73	Tasco..... 19
Barnett International..... 69, OBC	Gunpell..... 71	Manchester Airguns..... 58	Theoben Engineering..... 47
Battle Orders..... 56	Harpers Classic Guns..... 74	Milbro Caledonian..... 31	Trapshot..... 71
Budget Guns..... 45	Leslie Hewett..... IFC	Mirador Ltd..... 65	Uttings Gun Co..... 12-13
Cindys Shooting Shop..... 60	Highfield Gun..... 37	Optima..... 8-9	Venom Arms..... 24
Dale Designs..... 70	Hull Cartridge..... 72	Prometheus..... 14	Webley & Scott..... 15-18
David Nickerson..... 74	I.C.S..... 73	P & J Springs..... 70	Wycombe Armoury..... 27
Eley..... 69	J. Knibbs..... 73	Saxby & Palmer..... IBC	
	J & J Ford..... 68	Scalemead..... 5	

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